





T H E
SECRET HISTORY
O F T H E
DUTCHESS
O F
Portsmouth:

Giving an Account

Of the Intreagues of the Court,
during her Ministry. And of
the Death of K. C. II.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *Richard Baldwin*, in the
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T H E
SECRET HISTORY
OF THE
Dutchess of Portsmouth.

F*Rancelia* was the Daughter of a French Merchant of *Iron*, who having by his own Industry got a small Estate, retired with it from the Tumult and Bustle of that Great and Populous City of *Paris*, to the Country, where he design'd to pass the rest of his Life at ease, and live on that which he had gathered together: He was not long settled in the place he had chosen for his retreat, but that being of a sociable and agreeable Humour, he got the acquaintance and good will of his Neighbours and being withall a pretty good Companion, and one that had a little smack at Musick, he would freely drink his Glass with his Friends, and sometimes afford them some diversion with his Instruments. This render'd him acceptable to all Persons of his

Rank, and made him to receive Visits as well as give them to his Neighbours and Friends. His whole stock of Children consisted in two Daughters; the Eldest passably Witty and Handsome, till the Small-Pox, that implacable Enemy to all good Faces, had strangely alter'd her Features and Complexion, and dull'd her Apprehension, so that her younger Sister, *Francelia*, of whom we now write the Life, was admired by all, both for her Wit, Forwardness and Beauty, tho yet very young, while her Sister lay unregarded, and neglected by every one. This was the occasion of raising of some envy in the mind of the eldest Sister, who on the account of her Prerogative of Birth, did use a little more Tyrannick Power over her Sister, than otherwise she might or would have done, only to keep down her Towering Spirit, and prevent her from inchoaching too far on her Prerogative; and by this means there was continually some Jarrs and Feuds betwixt the two Sisters, which were kept up on the one part by Envy, and on the other by Pride and Subtilty.

These continual Quarrels betwixt the two Daughters, did not at all agree with the Fathers free and easie Temper, that made him to seek after means to make them agree, and live in that Love and Amity

Amity which should be betwixt two Persons so near allied ; but finding that all his labour was in vain, and that on the contrary, his Children would take advantage from his good Nature, to make the more disturbance in his little Family, he resolved at last to buy his Peace at any rate, tho it would not very well suite with his small Incomes, he living then at the height of his little Fortune : He propos'd therefore to his two Daughters, that seeing he could not prevail with them to live peaceably together, to have them parted, by sending one of them to a Boarding-School not far from the Neighborhood, and left to the choice of the Eldest, where she would accept of it, or remain with him, and he would send her Sister. The eldest Sister having refus'd the offer, thinking that in her absence the Younger would too far insinuate her self in her Father's Affections to her Prejudice ; the Father told the Youngest, that since her Sister desired to remain at home with him, she should prepare to go ; which was as readily and gladly accepted of by *Francelia*, as it had been rejected by her Sister. In short, she went to the School, where she had occasion to shew her aptness to Learning, her Wit and Ingenuity ; inso-much that all her Masters and Mistresses

were highly pleas'd with her, and she drew the Eyes and Admiration upon her, of every Body that went to visit their Children at that School, which gave a very great satisfaction and content to her Father, and rais'd as much Envy and Jealousie in her Sister, in whose Ears her Praises sounded as unwelcome News, which made her to debase as much as in her lay, all those Advantages which kind Nature had bestowed upon her younger Sister: But that did not hinder *Francelia* from pursuing her ends, which was to accomplish her self as much as possibly she could, while she had this fair Opportunity, not knowing how soon she might be depriv'd of it, which she fear'd would be before she had attain'd to the knowledge of those things which she so much desir'd to learn, as being very suitable to her Inclination and Humour: She was of a very airy brisk disposition naturally, but always allay'd with such a Portion of subtle Policy and Craftiness, which made a very agreeable mixture in her Conversation, because she would very frequently surprize People with her Repartees, which were the more taken notice of for coming from so Airy a Person, that one would have thought never gave it self time to make any Reflections nor Observations.

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This maturity of mind did draw the Love and Admiration of every body upon her, and some young Men began to look upon her with some sense of Passions, which she began to be sensible of, and would affect to be courted; of which the Father having been informed, he took an occasion from thence to ease his Purse, in calling her home, after that she had been a considerable time at that School.

She was as soon grown to maturity of Body, as she was in Mind, so that her Parents finding it a business of no small difficulty to govern her after those Measures which they had propos'd to themselves, and taken for her best Advantage, they thought of a Relation of theirs at *Paris*, as the fittest Person to manage her: This was propos'd by the Parents, and readily imbrac'd by the Relation, who having had some account under hand of her designed Pupil, writ to have the young Damself sent to her without delay. It will be proper in this place to give you a slight account of this Gentlewoman that liv'd at *Paris*: She was the Relicks of a Person who had depended all his Life-time on the *D. de Bellame*, and who had lived always at the highest pitch of his Incomes; though he had no Children, he had not left so much to his Widdow, as to let her live

live at ease, without keeping still in some Dependency with that Family, in which she did all she could to render her Person acceptable, and her Services agreeable to the Dutchess of *Bellame*, who rewarding her pains and diligence, sometimes with Presents, render'd her Life somewhat more comfortable to her. She had a good share of Wit and Industry, she was of an easie and affable Conversation, which render'd her not only acceptable to the Dutchess, but to the Duke also, who would sometimes please himself with passing an hour in Converse with her; neither was she so ancient, but that her Face might pass muster with such as were not of the highest form in Nicety.

It was to this Gentlewoman that *Francelia* was intrusted by her Father, who himself brought her to *Paris*, and resign'd her into the Hands of his dear Kinswoman, who promised him, that she would take the same care of her, in all respects, as if she was her own Child; upon which assurances the Father return'd to his Country, with all the satisfaction he could conceive.

The Kinswoman having, after the Father's return, well considered the Wit and Prettiness of her young Charge, she began to frame in her self some designs, which she hop'd would return in time to both their
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Advantages, and in order not to defer putting in execution, that which she had projected within her self, she had her accoutred and dress'd after the best manner, and which most conduc'd to the setting forth of her Darlings Parts and Qualifications. The next thing to be done, was to contrive some way to bring her to the sight of the Dutchess, as if by accident, that in case she should not approve of her insinuation into her presence, the Error should be attributed to meer Chance and Fortune, and so the more excusable.

To this purpose the Matron got somebody of the Dutchess's Family to give her notice, when she should next be in the *Tuilleries*, that then under pretence of shewing her Niece the fine places in *Paris*, she should be walking as by accident with the young one in some part of the Garden so as to be seen by the Dutchess: This Person employed to give this notice, liv'd not far from the entering in to that famous place of *Promenade* and Conversation; and they no sooner perceiv'd the Dutchess's Coach and Livery at the Gate, but they immediately sent word to the Aunt, that the Dutchess's Coach was there, and she was not long after without appearing with her pretty Niece at the same place. They pass'd from one walk to

to another, almost all over the Garden, without meeting with the Dutchess, and at last when they were out of hopes of finding her, wondring what could be become of her, seeing her Coach was still at the Gate, they perceiv'd the Duke, who having eyed the young Niece, was drawing towards them, to learn who that young Gentlewoman was, whose face he had never seen before, which made him conclude her a Stranger. The Duke being come up to them, after he had made a Jest to the Aunt, of having made use of his Dutchess's Coach, which he had accidentally met with empty, while he was carrying in a Chair, he turn'd himself to the Niece, to whom he made a Compliment, telling her amongst other things, how happy he was, to have had the pleasure to behold a Beauty, which doubtless would be the Admiration of the whole Court. The Aunt, to save her Nieces labour, and to prevent the disorders that an answer suitable to her self, and the Person had Complimented her, might cause in her, did presently reply, That her Niece was not so considerable to make any Figure at Court, neither should she appear but very rarely abroad any where else. After she had diverted her with all the Curiosities, of *Paris*, which all Strangers

gers ar so desirous to behold, the Duke taking scarce any Notice of the Aunts discourse, did again apply himself to the Niece, saying, That she ought in Justice to appear in that same place again, to make ample reparation of all the Damages which she had committed there; for her Beauty had doubtless wounded divers hearts, as well as his, in the Walk; she ought to return thither another time prepar'd with Balm, to heal those wounds she had made: That for his particular, he was so much disorder'd at so surprising an Object, that he begged some immediate application of a remedy from her lovely Mouth; who pausing a little while, our brisk young Stranger took the opportunity to say, That she was lately come from a place where there was so little discourse of that Nature, that she was to seek what to answer; but that she hop'd her Aunt would be so kind to inform her, both as to her Behaviour and Discourse, that till then she should remain silent, chusing rather to do so, than to offer at any thing that should make her pass for Ridiculous. This said with that spriteliness and brisk Air, with which she usually accompanied all her Actions, did so much please the aged Duke, that he said to the Aunt, He would take upon him,

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by her permission, to shew her some of the Curiosities of that City, wherefore he desired her to accompany them to the Coach, which should carry them to the Gallery of the Palace (which is like our Exchanges) where he would make her a Present. The Aunt having return'd the Duke most humble thanks for the honour he made to them both, represented to him, that such an Action would sound too high, and might draw too many Eyes upon them, which would not be convenient, considering her resolution to live retired with her Niece. The Duke having consider'd that she had reason to decline that offer, was contented with telling them that he would send a Supper to the Aunts House, and that he would come to eat with them that Night; so taking leave of them, he went to his Coach, and fail'd not to come to the Aunts Lodgings at night, where he had before sent a very handsome Supper and Collation.

It was there that the Duke was Charm'd with the Beauty and Agreeableness of his little Mistress, as he term'd her not without great admiration in the Aunt at the forwardness of her brisk Niece who display'd her Wit and Parts with a subtlety far transcending her Youth. She divers times offer'd to put in a word in behav

half of her Niece, partly to excuse her want of knowledge in the ways of the Court, and to plead the Ignorance that such young years were subject to, but she was as often interrupted by her nimble-tongued Niece, who at last turn'd her Aunt's Documents into a profound silence, and diligently hearkning to her discourse. The Duke himself was no less amazed at this young thing's forwardness and sharpness of Wit, and after he had staid with them a very considerable time, he took leave of his young Mistress, desiring the favour to please himself in another entertainment with so agreeable a person. Thus went the Duke, not without great emotions which he found this new Object had made in his Amorous disposition.

The next morning while the Aunt was busy in informing of her Niece of the ways of the Court, and of the difference which was to be us'd towards Persons of quality as the Duke; they were told that a Person from the Duke of *Bellame* desired to speak with the Aunt; she presently went to meet the Person, who told her that he had nothing to say to her, but after he had consign'd into her hands that little Packet, his Commission was attend; with that having delivered to her

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what he had in his hand, he took his leave and went his way.

The Packet consisted of two Letters, one directed to the Aunt, the other to the Niece. This last found besides a Letter directed to her, a very rich Neck-lace of Pearls; after she had admired the Beauty of them, she had the Curiosity to read the Letter which was conceived in these Terms.

I Know not yet whether Fortune did intend me the greatest of Pleasure, or of Affliction, when she brought me to behold those Charms which reside in your Person; you are the only Oracle that can decide that Point, according as you shall receive my small Present, and my Person, the next time I give myself the Happiness to wait on you, (which must not be long deferr'd if I would live) shall be able to give a guess whether you decree me for Life or Death: If you will not favour me with a sight of your Characters, permit your Aunt to inform me whether I may hope a favourable Reception from you, after this free Confession; my Heart commands my Hand to declare, that it no longer can live, but under the Title of your Slave, and most passionate Lover,

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A Person so Amorous as our young Niece was, could not read such a free Declaration of Love, without feeling strange Emotions in her Soul, to be so magnificently presented, and so passionately courted, by one of the Grandees of the Kingdom, who wanted not various Choices of Beauties, by a Person who had never seen her but the day before; all these things, besides the consideration of the great disproportion of their Ages, did put her into such Reflections, and profound Meditation, that notwithstanding her natural gay Humour, she could not take off her Eyes which she had fixed on the Ground, to cast them on her Aunt, who was come up to her, to give her an account of what the Duke had writ to her.

Indeed, Niece, I know not what to think of you, nor of your Proceedings, said she, I am as much surpris'd at your good Fortune, as I am at your Charms, which are irresistible, all yields to your Power, and you force even Nature her self to alter her Measures, and to produce the Effects of a youthful Spring, in the midst of Winter Snow; Be judge your self, continued she, *of what I say.* With that she read that Letter which the Duke had writ to her, as follows.

I Must confess, that my Natural Amorous Disposition, did ever make me take all Opportunities to toy and play the Wanton with such Women, as had but such a Competency of Natures Gifts, as would invite one to Converse with them; but now I find, that in spite of Age, your Charming Niece has rais'd such Passions and Desires in me, as I us'd to feel in my younger days, at the sight of the most accomplis'd Beauties; I find that nothing less than Enjoyment can lay that Storm, and quench those Flames which burn in my Breast: Let not this free Confession which I have made you, turn to my Disadvantage, and if that all the Kindness that both your late Husband and your self have received from me, is not capable to gain you to act in my behalf, nor the Assurances of a very considerable increase of Favour from me for the future, perswade you to take my part, at least stand Neuter, and let me and my Fair Mistress decide the Business betwixt us. The King designs to send me out of this Kingdom, I cannot tell how soon, will oblige me to lay a close Siege, that I may have occasion to leave with you wherewith to support my Charming young Mistress's Expences, suitable to her Merits, and that violent Passion which she has created in the Bosom of your Friend,

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During the reading of this Letter, the
Niece,

Niece, notwithstanding the red colour which her tender years and unexperience in such matters, from a person of so great Quality, did raise on her Cheeks, did permit a certain Joy to steal from her Heart into her Eyes, which sufficiently expressed the pleasure she felt within her at the knowledge of the Duke's Passion; which was so soon perceived by the Aunt, that it hastened her to perform what she was come about, before these new Impressions should take too much rooting in her Nieces amorous Disposition: she therefore told her, (not regarding the loss of the Dukes Favour) These were things so common, that in *Paris*, young, handsome Women would sometimes receive half a dozen such Letters in a Morning, all from persons which, peradventure, they never saw nor heard of in their lives; and that these were certain set forms which were used by the Gallants, to exercise their Pens, and their Lackies Heels, more than their Wits and Dispositions: And that perhaps the Duke had writ the same Letter, word for word, to divers Women that very Morning. The Niece gave Ear to her Aunts Discourse, but her Heart was too much dispos'd to Love, to give Credit to what she said; she told her Aunt, She could not believe that any person should.

take delight in writing such passionate things to a Woman, without feeling first some such things in their Breast; that a little time would try whether the Duke were sincere or not; and that if he should come himself after this, and make good what he had writ, it would be a great means to convince her that he dissembled not. The Aunt observing by her Nieces forwardness, that the Duke's Age and Marriage conditon would be of no use to her to repel his amorous Assaults, and that she would not make any long Resistance; she found, that though her Brother-in law had acted politickly in ridding his hands of such brittle Ware, yet he had not shewed all the Prudence in the World to send a young thing of so amorous a disposition, to a place where persons were so liable to all the temptations imaginable. But then, considering again, that it was a great argument of the Confidence which he had in her Virtues, that had made him to entrust his Child in her Hands; she resolved to deserve that good Opinion, in taking all the care she could possible, to keep her Niece more strict to her Duty. To this purpose she proceeded in her Instructions to her; to which she added, that she would by some means or other, make the Dutcheſs

Bellame

Bellame acquainted of the Charge she had in hand (though it should prove to her prejudice) in hopes that she might be desirous to see her; and that she made no question, but that she would so far please her, as to invite her to take her into the number of her Followers, where she would see none but virtuous Actions, and would be freed from those importunate Letters, from the Duke himself, and from all others. The Aunt was as good as her word in a short time; for after having perswaded her Niece, not without much ado, to return the Pearls to the Duke the next time he should come to see her; and to express so much Modesty in her looks and words as should deter him from attempting any further; she went about what she had designed.

Her Nieces arrival had made her neglect, in some measure, those assiduous Attendances which she daily pay'd to the Dutches which had made the Dutches to inquire, Whether she was ill; and there being no body present that could give any account of her, one of her Friends came directly from the Dutches to know the reason of her absence; that person came so luckily to serve her in her design, that she presently took the opportunity of informing her, That a Niece of

hers, whom she was willing to gratifie, in shewing her the *Curiosities of Paris*, as being a stranger, had caused her to be guilty of so much neglect towards the Dutchess, who she hoped would have the Bounty to forgive her, when she was informed of the occasion; adding, that she intreated her friend to be so kind, as to let the Dutchess know so much, and whether she might without giving offence, present her Niece to her: With that she brought her Friend in, to see her Niece, whom they found sitting, leaning her Head on her Hand, which she rested on the Table, and in a very deep Meditation. The Friend, as all others, was presently made sensible of this young ones Perfections, so soon as she heard her speak; and said, That she was certain the Dutchess would be so taken with her, as to retain her near her own person, and that she would be sure to give the Dutchess such a Character of her as would create in her a desire to see her: After that she took leave, and was going forth, when she met with the Duke, who was coming to visit his young Mistress. The Duke being surpris'd at the reincounter of a Woman whom he knew was every day at his Dutchess's Toilets, did not know well what to say for himself, but
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being a Person of a quick Wit, he presently took her by the Hand, telling her, That though he had designed, when he came, to have taken the Mistress of the House with him, to look on some things he had a mind to buy, since that Fortune had presented him with another Assistance, he would embrace it; and presently returning back to his Coach, he led the Gentlewoman along with him, of whom he dispos'd afterwards as he pleas'd, she for the present not knowing any thing of his Intentions.

The Duke having rid his Hands of this troublesome Woman, he return'd a back way to see his young Mistress, whom he found all alone: Her Aunt, not thinking the Duke would give them a Visit till the Afternoon, especially, having been disappointed of Answers from either of them, was gone next door, to the Labour of one of her Neighbours, where she had been call'd. The Duke's coming that Morning so early, had been occasioned by the King's sending to him to let him know, he should prepare with all the Expedition he could, to command those Gallies and Men which he was forthwith sending to the Assistance of the *Venetians* in opposition to the *Turks* design upon *Candia*, this had alarm'd him, and he was

come to acquaint his young Mistress with it, and to observe how she would take this News. He gave her then an account of his Business and of his Passion, to both which, the young forward one, who was not then over-aw'd with her Aunts presence, gave such Answers as did sufficiently express how sensible she was of those signal Favours and great Honour which she had received in the Duke's Visit and Condescension, tho she had not so much Vanity, as to think there was any thing in her could invite a Person of so great Merit to speak any such things, more than by way of Diversion; and she was so taken up with the Duke's Presence, and with what she should answer him, that she forgot at first to return the Necklace of Pearls, as her Aunt had advised her to do. But a while after, in pursuance of Discourses, in which the Duke did sound her all manner of ways, she took occasion at some words, to draw it out of her Pocket, and to offer it him. The Duke surpris'd at that Action when he least expected it after so long a Discourse, seeing she had not done it at first, stood a while mute, looking on her with as much love as he could express with his Eyes; at last he thus broke out: *Is it possible, Fair One, that after those hopes I had*

bad entertain'd in me, I should see my self so Unfortunate, as to have the first Testimony of my Passion (tho small, I confess) so much slighted, as not thought worthy of Acceptance? Pardon me, my Lord, reply'd the Niece, that besides the knowledge of my unworthiness, I follow the Instructions of a Person unto whom my Parents have given a full Authority over me. This malicious Intimation which she had on purpose made, that in performing her Aunts Advice, she might not prejudice her own Designs, and lay the whole fault on her Governess, had its wish'd for effect, for the Duke finding which way the Wind blew, he so closely ply'd his young Mistress, under the favour of her Aunts absence, that before she was return'd, he had not only perswaded her to retain the Pearls, but also to accept of what else he should send to her with such Privacy, that her Aunt, for the future, should not have occasion to disturb their Intreague with her superfluous Councils. In short, the Duke found out the way so to please his Mistress's Humour, that after some few days, in an intercourse of Letters, which were privately received from, and delivered to her, she express'd her self willing and ready to obey the Duke in whatsoever he should require of her.

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The Duke being thus got to the highest point of his Designs, thought of nothing more, but of contriving some Opportunity for an Enjoyment. But while he had busied his Brains about that, he received an Order from the King, which commanded him on Board within forty eight hours at farthest. This was a blow unexpected, and though through his Advice his Mistress feigning an Indisposition, had by that means avoided being presented to the Dutches of *Bellame* by her Aunt; yet he began to fear, that he should be glad to leave her in his Wives Hands, believing her more safe there from Temptations, than any where else, yet he left not endeavouring all ways imaginable to come to an Enjoyment, notwithstanding his multiplicity of Business, and the small time he had to stay at *Paris*, but to no effect, and finding that she express'd as ready a Compliance to his Desires, as she did of Fervency in his Passions, he took the Opportunity to offer the taking of her along with him to *Candia*. This gave her the Opportunity to shew she had as much Courage as she had Wit and Beauty, she presently embrac'd the offer, desiring the Duke but to find out the means to take her from her Aunt unknown to her, and that

t hat she should be ready at the time appointed to follow him where e're he should be pleased to command her.

Her Aunt all this while, before whom she had carried her self with much more reservedness than she had at first, under pretence of her Illness, and take off all suspitions, who did not in the least distrust any further Intrigue betwixt the Duke and her Niece, being rather inclin'd to believe, that in consideration of the great disparity of Ages, he might have declin'd what he had so vigorously pursued before; being, it may be, she fancy'd, diverted by some new Object from thinking any longer on her; did all that she could to bring her Niece to that recovery of Health, as to enable her to endure to be carried to the Dutches in a Chair, and through her Importunities she got her Neice at last to consent to it, in lieu of giving thereby an opportunity to the Duke to take her away; wherefore she presently sent him word of it by their private Messenger, which was a Woman that taught her to Sing, which he had gained by Presents. The Duke being advertised of that, set some Persons to watch all the Chairs that should go out of the Aunts House, with order, that
when

when they should perceive a Chair with a young Gentlewoman in it, they should order the Chairmen to follow them where the Duke had appointed that she should be received.

It was not above six hours before the time given him by the King for his longest stay, that this was done. She was carried out, only accompanied by her Aunts Foot-Boy, she being gone to the Dutchess before in a Coach to be ready to receive her Neice ; presently were the Duke's Spies about the Chair, and while some were bidding the Chairmen to turn down the next corner they should come at, others were busie in amusing the Foot-Boy another way, that he should not see which way the Chair was carried, which they did so well, that the Boy turning his head again, and not seeing the Chair before him, he run on streight forwards, it being the way to the Dutchess, where he knew they had been ordered to carry the young Lady, still cursing the Chairmen in his heart for running so fast.

Mean while *Francelia* was joyfully received by those the Duke had appointed so to do ; and they having sent him word that she was come, he staid not long

long after, but run into the House with all the Joy and Pleasure that the approaching Enjoyment could inspire him: so soon as the first Caresses and Embraces were over, he gave her an account of the suddenness of his departure, that he had however given order to some Persons that should supply her with all that she should have occasion, even with profusion; but that if he durst but hope, she would hearken to a Proposition which he durst not advance without her leave, and her promise that she should not take it in ill part, he should think himself the happiest Man in the World; which she having consented to, he proposed her going along with him in the Habit of one of his Pages, that he would be as careful and tender of her as of his own Heart; that she should have all manner of Accommodation, should lie in his own Cabin, eat and drink with him; that no Body should ever know of her disguise; and that when once arriv'd at *Candia*, it should be to her choice, whether she would continue under that disguise, or re-assume the habits of her own Sex; in fine, he told her so many fine things, and express'd so much Passion and Tenderness towards her, that she consented to all his desires.

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It was not difficult to make her pass for one of his Pages, even with his own Servants, because that two of his, finding themselves unfit for the Sea, or perhaps having no inclinations to go to *Candia*, having declin'd his Service, he was to seek for others; one he had got, which he would have made shift with, with two more that he had, so that having immediately given order for a Pages habit to be ready for her; there was one got ready in the space of four hours, with which our Female Page being accouter'd, and furnish'd with all things else suitable, *Capape*, she suffer'd her self to be conducted by the Duke, with the rest of his Retinue, in the Admiral's Galley, where she found as much Civility, Love, and Passion, as the Duke had promised she should receive.

We must leave them floating on the Waves, to return to the Aunt, who after long waiting for her Neice in vain, sent for her Foot-Boy, to give her an account of her, and where he had lost her; the Boy said, There was such a Crowd, that he had been once intercepted by a Coach or two crossing betwixt him and the Chair; that so soon as they were passed, he had made all the haste he could

could to overtake it, but could not, and that he had thought the Chairmen had set down the Lady and gone their way before he came, which had made him to wait there contented.

The Aunt little satisfied by this Account, could not tell what to think; sometimes she fancied the Chairmen had misunderstood where they were to carry her; sometimes that some sudden Illness coming upon her, she had desired to be carried into some House, or else home again; in fine, she thought of every thing but of the right, she would have been long enough before she had thought her Neice was gone to Sea with the Duke, especially, he having given out that he was gone on Ship-board three hours before the Neice had stirred forth, that he might have time to take leave of her in private, and leave orders for all things necessary for her till his return. Wherefore the Aunt having waited long in vain, and having made all the inquiries she could possible after her: in which the Dutches her self had employed divers of her own Servants, without success, she was forced to return home very disconsolate, where having sent for all the Friends she had, she ingag'd them
to

to assist her with all their Power, by endeavouring to recover her Niece, which she concluded to be stolen.

The Duke having had a very quick Voyage, arriv'd at *Candia*, where he landed his Forces, and Intrench'd them: Some time after, in an Engagement with the Enemy, a Mine Sprung under him, which blow'd him up, or so interr'd him, that from that time he was never seen nor heard of. Ill News flies fast; no sooner was that Engagement over, but the loss of so Eminent a Person was spread all over the Christians Quarters, and was carried to the Fleet also, where you may imagine how his Mistress resented it. In an instant she found herself in the midst of Enemies, encompass'd round with Fire and Smoak, and her Ears fill'd with the Cries of Dying Men, and of others Lamenting for their Friends Losses, destitute of all Friends, Relations, and Acquaintance to protect her, in a Disguise unbecoming her Sex. In the midst of all these Tumults and Distractions, she abandon'd her self to such an Excess of Grief, that it was not probable she could have subsisted many hours longer under so great an Affliction. She was lying on a Bed in her Lords Cabin, bathed

bathed in Tears, venting of Sighs to preserve her Heart from bursting, when there came in a Gentleman, who flinging himself on his Knees by the Bed-side, said, *Madam, It suffices you have done your part, and have paid your Devoirs to the Memory of your Noble Friend. I share in your Affliction also, having, in the same Person, lost a worthy Friend and honourable Patron; but, Madam——* At this second time that she heard the word *Madam* nam'd, and knowing that no Woman, but her self, was in the Fleet, she could not but start, and appear very much concern'd, notwithstanding the great Consternation she was in; and looking on that Person that spoke to her with silence, it gave the Gentleman an opportunity of adding: *Yes, Madam, as an Argument that I was privy to the Duke's greatest Concerns, I come to tell you he had confided in me the Secret of your being disguis'd in a Pages Habit, and that he had me to promise him to assist you, in case he should miscarry; and that he would bequeath you to my Care and Protection; of which if you please to accept, Madam, I offer it you with all the Submission and Respect imaginable, expecting but your Orders and Commands, to act according to them.*

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The Damofel then found that ſhe could no longer decline giving this obliging Gentleman an answer; wherefore, raiſing her ſelf a little on the Couch, ſhe ſaid, *I cannot, Sir, but be ſenſible of thoſe obliging offers you are pleas'd to make me; and I muſt needs acknowledge alſo, that without a very great Intimacy with my Dear Duke, you could never have attain'd to ſo much knowledge of me, as you have expreſs'd. But, Sir, my Sorrow is ſo great, and my Troubles ſo many, that I muſt, with your leave, allow to my ſelf ſome longer time to allay thoſe Diſturbances, which agitate my mind; and to give a further vent to thoſe Tears and Sighs, which otherwiſe would abſolutely deſtroy me: After that, Sir, I ſhall with humble Acknowledgments, embrace your Kindneſs and Aſſiſtance, in the conveying of me back to my own Country. Your request is ſo juſt, Madam, reply'd the Officer, that I have nothing more to reply, but that I am from this very moment ſo wholly at your diſpoſal, that you need but ſpeak, and I ſhall readily act in your behalf, all that is within my Power. Mean time, Madam, I retire; but with your leave and permiſſion, I ſhall leave with you a Servant that you may command as your own, and that ſhall know where to find me at any time*

time that you shall have occasion for me. This said, he made a profound reverence, and went out of the Cabbin.

Not long after, that Servant who he had left at the entry of the Cabbin, hearing our afflicted Lady fetch a deep Sigh, believing she had call'd, came in, and having demanded whether she wanted any thing, she had the Curiosity to ask of him (which she thought she might do with more freedom than of others) who, and what his Master was? The Servant did readily give her satisfaction on that Point, saying, His Master was a Person of Quality, who had a considerable Command in the Navy; and that he had order'd him to wait upon her till further orders: And, Sir, added he, I shall always be ready at the Cabbin door, where my Master has fixt my Post, whenever you please to call. The Lady thank'd him, and desired him to retire till she should call. The Servant gone out, she still lying on the Bed, at last she yielded to slumber, which having not got into her Eyes for some days before, did then take a full possession of her. She being thus fallen into a profound Sleep, this being the third day after the News of the Dukes loss, and another

another Officer being nominated to be the Admiral, in order to come on Board of the Captain's Galley, in which our Lady was lying still, and take possession of his Command; he sent some of his own Servants, with some of the late Duke's (amongst which was two of his Pages to see the said Duke's Goods removed) and to put in some of his own. They came into the Cabbin while she was in her dead Sleep, and by the Livery she had on, taking her to be one of the Pages, by the Strangers, who had been told by the two other Pages it was a young Gentleman, whom the Duke their late Master had taken into his Service, but just before he left *France*, and whom he extreemly lov'd, in so much that none was to be admitted into his Cabbin but him, and that he doubtless had a very great Affection for his Master and had been Mourning and Lamenting for him ever since his Death; that they were glad to find him so fast asleep, and they desir'd he should not be disturb'd, till he awaked of himself; this made the Servants to mind their business in removing some Chests, leaving that of the Beds to another time; after which they left the Cabbin, except the eldest Page

Page. Thus was the young Lady left unmolested, who in the midst of her deep Sleep, her Imagination being agitated with Dreams, suitable to the Condition to which she was reduced, made her to utter these words: *Why will you be gone, my Lord, and leave your poor young Mistress behind you?* This she spoke so loud and distinctly, that he who was present could not but take notice of it; and a little while after, stretching forth her Arms as if to retain him, she added: *My dear Duke, I will follow you wherever you go; and with the motion she made, she awak'd, started up, and perceiving the Page gazing upon her, it put her in a very great Disorder, which did but the more increase the Suspicions that her words had newly rais'd in him, of her being a Woman.* The Page did presently make her sensible of the Discovery she had made of her self, and having compar'd divers Circumstances, during the whole Voyage and stay at Candia, with what he had heard. This the eldest of the Pages, whom the Duke had speedily design'd for some Preferment, had he liv'd, said, *You have betray'd your own Secret, Madam, but let me advise you not to add more Affliction to that*
which

which has been the cause of your Discovery ; and if you please to think me worthy to serve you , employ me in what you shall think fit . This he said, leaning over the Bed, with a low Voice, that none but her self might hear him from without. The young Lady being wonderfully surpriz'd, and put into a very great Consternation, by the Discovery that the Page, or rather that she her self had made, remain'd for some time in such a Confusion, that she could not speak one word ; but turning her back towards him, and covering her Face with her Hand, she put forth two or three loud Sighs, after which she said, in a low Voice, her Face being still turn'd from the Page. *I know not, in the Condition I am at present, whether it be for my advantage, that through my Excess of Grief, you have come to the true knowledge of me ; I wish that the Heavens may inspire you to contrive my return ; I should not fail to give you these Acknowledgments for so great a piece of Service, as should in some measure express my Gratitude. Since I cannot longer conceal my Disguise from you, I will freely confess to you I am a Woman, a most unfortunate Woman ; but if you would have me believe that you have really any Inclinations*

to serve me, confirm me in it, by not inquiring any further in my Concerns, nor into the Cause that brought me here, so far from my Native Country, and amongst so great a number of Armed Men, all absolute Strangers to me, but our late Master, who would have perform'd his Promise of returning me back to France, if it had not been his too cruel Fate to perish here. With this shedding a Torrent of Tears, her sobbing stopt her Mouth, so that the Page had time, after a little pause, to assure her, that he would implicitly obey all her Commands, if she would assure him that she would but kindly accept of them; and perceiving she made no answer, but gave a free vent to her Grief, he added: *I see, Madam, that your Sorrow will have its Course, wherefore I will retire, to return to you when I may be more Serviceable than at this present.* With that he went out of the Cabin, telling the Servant who waited at Door, that he should not let any body come in to disturb the young Gentleman, who lay very ill on the Bed.

He was just going out of the Gally, when he met with the new Commander of it, who was coming himself, with some of his Friends and his Servants, to

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take

take Possession of the Cabin, which made him to return immediately back again, believing that the young Lady might have occasion to make use of his Service, wherefore the Officer being entered, and perceiving one in the late Duke's Livery lying on the Bed, he inquir'd who he was; the Page made answer, That it was one of his Fellow Pages, with whom the Sea not agreeing so well as with the rest, had remain'd Sick in the Cabin; but that he would take care that he should be remov'd against Night, with all the rest of his late Masters Goods, into that Vessel which was ordered to go back into *France* with the Goods, and such of his Servants as were desirous to return. The Officer taking no further notice, after he had look'd about a little, and given order how he would have his things dispos'd, went out of the Cabin and Gally also, bidding the Page take care that it should be clear'd of all that belong'd to the late Duke, because he intended to lye there that Night. *Francelia*, who had heard what had been ordered, was glad to find the Page to stay behind in the Cabin, that she might consult with him, what were best to be done for the better Concealment

which back Lady of his g en- duke's quir'd wer, ages, well k in care ight, fters s or- the vere king ok'd y he out ling be late ere ard find bin, hat on- ent

cealment of her, till she was brought back again into *France*, where she should be in a better Condition to acknowledge his Services than there: The Excess of her Grief had already put out of her mind that other Person who had so passionately offer'd his Service to her; she look'd upon it rather as a Dream than any Reality, and was resolv'd within her self to rely wholly on the Cares and Services of her Fellow Page, which she believ'd she might better manage to her own mind, than any body else; she therefore turning to him, *Chandore*, said she, so was he nam'd, I find such a necessity of wholly trusting my self to your Care and Bounty in the sad Condition I am in, that in the Opinion I have, you are Generous, and that you will deal like a Gentleman by me; I wholly rely on your Friendship, only I intreat you to use all the means imaginable, with the rest of your fellow Servants, to get leave to return with all speed; for certainly it will cost me my Life, if I should remain but a Month longer in this Condition. And here is my Hand, added she, that I will be sensible of all your Kindnesses to me, when I once set foot again in my dear Country. There needed no more to spur on our brisk Page, who

having from the beginning admired *Francelia's* Face, even when he believed her a Page, wishing he could get a Mistress with the like Beauty. He presently reiterated to her the Assurance of his Fidelity and Service, and told her, That he would immediately go and get as good a place as he could possible in the best Cabin of that Vessel appointed for their Transportation; and that so soon as he had got all things ready for her removal, he would come to fetch her, and bring along with him Persons to carry away all that did belong to her. With that he immediately went out of the Cabin, not staying for her answer.

Francelia somewhat satisfied with the assurances that *Chandore* had given her of his Care, and with the hopes of returning to *France* again, arose from the Bed to look after those things which did particularly belong to her, in order to their removal. The Duke had been very profuse to her, for he entirely loved her, and at his going on that last Expedition, in which he lost his Life, he had given her a little Casket, which he bid her lock up in her own Trunk till he return'd again; but if that it was his Fate to be left behind, that she should keep it for her

her own use in remembrance of the Love which he bore to her. She had the Curiosity to open her Trunk to look on the Casket, and peradventure, that it had gone so far as to have invited her to see what was in it, but that she had no sooner opened her Trunk, but the Officer, who was a Marquess, and had before discovered to her his knowledge of her Sex, came in to the Cabin, which obliged her to shut her Trunk again, to receive him with Respect, his Garb, Meene, and Presence speaking him some Person of Quality, though without Attendance. *I am come, Madam,* said he, *to lead you to an Apartment which I have caused to be made ready for you, when I understood that the Commander of this Gally was to take Possion, and lie in it this Night.* This convinc'd *Francelia* that what she had fancied to be a Vision was Reality, which made her to return the Person himself thanks for the Care he had of her; but withal told him, That the eldest of the late Duke's Pages, who designed to return to *France*, had taken care to get her a good Accommodation in that very Vessel which was to carry back the Duke's Goods and Servants, and that though she found her self infinitely

obliged to his care of her, yet she with his permission should rather choose to go there, that she might not be left behind, but always be in a readiness to go when they should put off to Sea. The Officer presently made answer, That to his knowledge the Gally would not be permitted to go till they had beaten the *Turks* out of *Candia*, or utterly lost it: That to be so long confin'd to a Cabin without Conversation, and continually expos'd to the Insults of Servants would needs be a very great addition to her Affliction, which would doubtless make her fall into some Distemper: That he had a Tent purposely for her on the Sea-Shoar, where she might be as ready at all times to embark as if she were in the Vessel; that his own Servants should continually attend her, and that she should be free from any discovery. That while the Duke was with her she might expect all manner of Civility and Respect, but now he was not, every body would be Master, that there would be such a Disorder and Confusion amongst his People that she could not but be very much disturb'd at it: In fine, he so well represented to her the Inconveniencies she should meet with

with in the Gally, and the Services, which she would receive in the Tent on Shoar, that notwithstanding she told him, That she was but waiting for *Chandore's* return to have gone along with him with her Goods into that Gally. He having assured her, that *Chandore* should be inform'd of her removal to Shoar, by his Servant who he would leave to that purpose behind, that she consented to be led by him, and her Trunks to be carried after her by Seamen; designing to make an Apology to *Chandore* for her removal to Shoar, when next she should see him, which she believed would be that very day: Thus was she convey'd to Shoar, and the Marquess, who had no design of letting *Chandore* know where he had removed her, he not liking well his own diligence, sent his Man another way, that *Chandore* at his coming should not be informed, but left wholly in the dark.

The Officer did bring her to a very curious Tent, where were all things necessary for her use, nay, even to Delicacy with Attendance, had been provided for her. So soon as she was enter'd the Tent, he having given order to all the Servants to attend without, only

leaving a young *Morefco* Woman with her, who had lately been made a Prisoner, he went out himself, to give the greater liberty to his new Guest.

Mean time *Chandore* was returned to the Gally in order to take *Francelia* along with him, and had brought Persons with him to carry her things; but in what Amazement was he when he found the Cabin empty both of the Lady and of all her Goods; he presently made enquiry after the young Page of every Person that was in the Gally, but none could tell him where she was gone; they said, That an Officer of Quality had been with her, who had led her along with him into a Long-Boat, but whether they knew not; that some of their Crew were gone with them to carry her Trunks, who perhaps might give him an Account at their return: This made him to stay and wait for their coming back, that he might learn what he could from them; at their return he could get no more than that the Long-Boat had put them on Board another Gally, but they knew not its name, nor who Commanded it. The Officer had done this designedly, that he might not be trac'd with the Lady: So that *Chandore* was forc'd

forc'd to rest contented for the present, not without hopes by his indefatigable search to retrieve her again, wherefore, not to lose any time he went about it immediately.

He visited all the Gallies in the Port, inquired strictly of every body in them, Whether they had not seen a handsome young Page in the late Admiral's Livery, with an Officer, come on Board them; at last, when he was almost past all Hopes, he had Intelligence, that such a one had been there, but did not stay, and that he was gone with that Officer to Shoar in the Long-Boat that had brought them thither: His next business was to get a Shoar, where he continued his diligent Search, and not knowing who was the Officer that had convey'd her to Land, he accidentally address'd himself to him, just as he was returning to her in the Tent: He with Respect inquired, Whether he could inform him of a young Page, lately belonging to the Admiral; which he did with so much earnestness and concern, that it was easy for the Intelligent Officer, to see that it was something more than the acquaintance of a fellow Page, made him so earnestly inquisitive; wherefore, to

be rid of ſo troublesome a Rival, he roughly answered him, That he ſhould apply himſelf to other Perſons to inquire after Pages, and that he did not uſe to concern himſelf with Boys : Thus went he into the Tent. This answer to an amorous Perſon in queſt after his Hearts Deſire, who being a Gentleman too of Courage beyond what his youth promis'd, had doubtleſs provoked him to return as tart to the Officer, had he not ſo ſoon enter'd the Tent. However, as Lovers Eyes and Ears are always more open than others, he did imagine, that ſomething more than ordinary had cauſed this Officer, in all other reſpect civil enough, to return ſo rough an Answer to his humble Requeſt, this made him to hover all that Evening about that Tent, yet with that Caution, as not to be ſeen by the angry Officer, who he began to think had a knowledge of his Miſtreſſes Sex, and was become his Rival : He was not ignorant of the familiarity to which this Officer had had with the late Duke, and he believed, that the Duke, at ſome time or other, might have communicated ſo great a Secret to him ; he knew alſo, what a conſiderable Command he had, and that he was a Marqueſs of a conſiderable Eſtate;

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wherefore considering all the great advantages which his powerful Rival had over him, join'd to the Possession of his Mistress, he thought it would be no booty for him to act in any manner but by Subtilty and Craft; wherefore he resolved within himself, that so soon as he should certainly know the place where his Mistress was, which he did not know but might be in that Tent where the Marquess had entered, he would use all means possible to come to Speech of her, to learn from her self, whether his Services might be still acceptable to her, as she seemed to express they would be before this change; at least, so great was his Love, that if she should express any indifferency for him, or any thing to his Rivals advantage, that he would lose his Life, or rid himself of so powerful a Competitor.

Francelia, on her part, was thinking on *Chandore*, whom she lik'd well enough, and thought her self as much obliged to him as to the Marquess: She had had divers times the opportunity to observe him, he being the chief that came about the Duke, she had heard the Duke divers times speak very advantageously of him, of his good Education, of his Honorable

norable Parents, of his Courage and Address, and that he would in a very short time prefer him to an Employ suitable to his Capacity, and the Family he was Related to: This, with his readiness to serve her, and some Passion which she had observed in his Eyes towards her, did make her very much incline to favor him: She was in the height of those Reflections when the Marquess came into the Tent. He approach'd her with an Air full of Love and Respect, but which was mixt with a certain Gaiety, with which he usually did agreeably season all his Actions. *Well, Madam,* said he, (his Passion having made him forget the Dress she was in) *how do you like your Apartment?* The word, Madam, having rais'd a severe Blush over all *Francelia's* Face, and made her to cast her Eyes on the Ground, while she endeavored to hide her disorder with her Handkerchief: It made him sensible of his Error, but it was too late to recal it; besides, he was in hopes that there being no body then in that Room, but the *Morefco*, whom he knew understood not *French*, no body had heard him from without, though he had spoken somewhat loud; he came up to *Francelia*, and made

made what Apology he could for his Error, begging her Pardon, and laying it upon the excess of a new-born Passion, which had been kindled in his Breast for her, the fault he had committed, assuring her that for the future he would be more Circumspect. She, as unwilling to take any notice of what he had express'd of Love, told him, She was glad there was no Person in that place that could understand him, and that except he had been heard from without, all would be well enough : She presently changed the discourse, and told him, She could not but be highly pleas'd with her Lodgings, for which she return'd him humble Thanks, and then said, that she wondered very much that she had not yet heard any thing from *Chandore*, who had promised to be with her before this ; and that she had something of her own Concern to impart to him, in which he and no body else could serve her. *How, Madam*, replied the Marquess, in a lower tone, and with some abatement of his Gaiety, *is no body capable to serve you, but that Page ? Does he know so much of your Concerns, as to have so much power to serve you ? I thought my self the only happy Man,*
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Continued he, *who knew of your disguise, and*——he was going on, when *Francelia*, to break off his further inquiry into that business, said, *Sir, he was my fellow Page, and in that respect he might have so much knowledge of my Affairs, as to be serviceable to me, though he should not have any knowledge of my Sex. It is concerning some Papers, Sir, continued she, that I would discourse him, which I cannot find, and that peradventure he might give me some intimation of them: If I was but assured they were in the Fire, or in the bottom of the Sea, I should be as well satisfied as if I had them: I know not whether in my late disorders I might not scatter them, and he have lighted upon them. The Marquess, who had all this while narrowly observed her, did fancy that he had perceived some change, more than once, in in her Countenance, during her Discourse, he took no farther notice of it, but designed to watch so narrowly Chandore's steps, that he should not have the opportunity of seeing her once, much less to speak to her: He therefore in his turn turned off the Discourse, giving her an Account of the posture of Affairs, reserving for after Supper, to*

speak

speak to her of his Passion; but a Message being brought to him that a Body of *Turks* were advancing towards the Head Quarters; and that it was ordered that he should forthwith, with his Battalion, go to maintain a Pass which lay in the way. It obliged him to quit *Francelia*, though not without expressing some regret for it, and giving orders that his Supper should be brought to the young Gentleman, and that all his Servants which he left behind, should give their Attendance to him, as to his own Person. The orders were so pressing, that he had no more time but just to take his leave of her, and to tell her, That he feared not but to have good Success, if she did but favor his Actions with her good Wishes: With that he got on Horse-back to join his Battalion.

Chandore, who had been hovering about the Tent in a grey Campaign Coat, to disguise himself a little, having seen the Marquess take Horse, came to the Tent Door, and there he so well insinuated himself with the Servants, that at last he got Intelligence from one, who had over-heard the Marquess to say, *Madam*. He gave him some Pistols,

stols, which caused him to shut his Fists so soon as he had felt them, and to open his Mouth, saying, That of truth there was a Person within that Tent, which had a Livery on, and that he verily believed he was nothing less, than what he seemed to be ; that through the great Respect the Marquess shewed him, the Services which he had ordered all his Servants to render him, and his once calling him, *Madam*, not to mention the Beauty of his Face, he verily believed that it was some Gentlewoman, which he had met by chance, concealed under the habit of a Page.

This discovery, as it highly pleased *Cbandore* on the the one hand, did very much perplex him on the other, to find that his Mistress was so well known ; he persuaded that Servant to step aside with him a little, because he had something of Consequence to communicate to him ; the Fellow complied with his Desires, and having got him to a Suttlers, there he told him, That of truth it was a Woman, and his Sister, that the Marquess had got, and that he had some things of great moment to communicate to her, that if he could but
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bring him to the speech of her, or at least convey it into her hands a Letter, which he would deliver to him, assuring him that he should be very grateful to him : The Servant made answer, That as he was but one of the Inferior Servants, and not admitted to come into that Tent, he believed it impossible for him to perform, but that there was a *Morefco* Woman, which the Marquess had placed with the Gentleman, that he would endeavor to put the Letter into her hands, and make the best signs he could to get her to deliver it to the Person. That if the *Morefco* took the Letter from him, he would peep through some hole to see whether she delivered it, and would give him an account of it. *Chandore* had been also informed by this Servant, that the Marquess had given a strict Charge, that no Person should be admitted to the sight, or speech of her ; wherefore he despaired of obtaining that Happiness, till he had first informed her that he was thereabouts, ready to receive her Commands, being prohibited the sight of her, by her Goaler, (thus he termed the Marquess) having writ a Letter to that purpose, he gave it the
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Servant, who promised to deliver it to the *Maresco* Woman, and to bring him an answer where he was, if he could get one. Thus he left *Chandore* at the Suttlers, and went to try what he could do; After some time waiting at the Tent Door for some conveniency of delivery without being seen, he at last contriv'd this way, he turned his Back towards the entry, and holding the Letter in his hands behind him, thrusting it into the Door of the Tent, he moved it up and down, that notice should be taken of it, which had its effect; for at that very time *Francelia* reflecting on the Condition she was in, and fearing that she could not deal so well, and come off so easily from the Marquess's Courtship, which she found she could not affect, as she might do of *Chandore's*, if he opposed her desires: She was wishing that she might see him, and perceiving a Paper to wag up and down, she fancied there might be some Mystery in it, and peradventure that it might be from *Chandore*; she had reason to believe that the Marquess had deceiv'd her in his Promise, of letting *Chandore* know where she was, because she verily believ'd, that if he had had any Intel-

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ligence of it, he had doubtless been with her before that ; she therefore went to that part of the Tent, and unseen to the *Moresco*, snatch'd the Paper, which a little while after she read ; It was as follows.

It may be dangerous to say more at present, than that I have had a World of Difficulties to find you out, your Goaler, the Marquis, is infinitely Jealous of you ; I had the ill Fortune to ask of him after you ; he gave me a scurvy answer : This Servant I have gain'd, did hear him call you Madam ; you pass with him for my Sister : Take what measures you can from these Informations, to let me know, by the same Person, in what manner I may serve you with my Life. She having read this, drew a Pencil, with which, on the back part of the Letter, she writ these few Lines. *I have reason to believe all you have writ to be true, and I am also inclin'd to believe you intend me well, and that you would serve me ; I find here too much of respect and Services, as of Jealousie also to be well pleas'd ; come to my Tent in the Morning, and I shall endeavour to let you know what advice this Night shall give me.* She having clos'd this Note, and perceiving the Hand to wag, as if it crav'd an Answer,

Answer, she went towards it, and put the Note into it, the *Moresco* Woman not observing it, which was presently convey'd to *Chandore*, who was impatiently waiting for it : He rewarded the Servant, and desired him to continue his Friendship to him, in case he should have further occasion for it ; which being promis'd him, he went to pass the Night as well as the Impatiency he was in to see his Mistress, would permit him.

In the Morning early he got to the Tent, he was walking the Rounds about it, when *Francelia* appear'd at the Door. He soon spy'd her, and coming up, he told her softly, That he was ready to obey her Commands. Though the Servants were displeas'd at *Chandore's* discoursing with her, they durst not express any dislike, for it was none of their fault ; if there was any design in it, it was of their own contriving, and they had no order to hinder her from taking the Air at the entry of the Tent, as she had pretended to do, no more than to prevent her in any other of her Actions and Desires. She told *Chandore*, She fancy'd she should be more contented to be in the Cabin he had
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provided for her in the Galley, than where she was, because she fear'd, that in time the Marquis's imperious Humour might be very uneasy to her, and that she hop'd he would be more Complaissant to her in any way, though she was highly respected by the Marquis, but with such an Air, that gave her cause to suspect she could not expect the continuation of it long. *Chandore* proffer'd to lead her away instantly, but did not know how to get her Goods remov'd. They were plotting and contriving together what to do, walking in the Shade aside of the Tent, when the Marquis came Galloping up, and surpriz'd them together.

He had at some distance perceiv'd *Francelia*, which had made him set Spurs to his Horse, but had not discern'd who that Person was that spoke to her, but he no sooner did alight but knew it was *Chandore*; yet making as if he had not taken notice of him, he address'd himself to *Francelia*, whom taking by the Hand, he led into the Tent.

Chandore being thus again depriv'd of his Mistress, when he was busied with her in contriving to get off, by her own consent,

consent, remain'd as if he had been struck with a Clap of Thunder, his Love and his Courage did suggest to him divers bold Enterprises, but fearing still, that if he should use main force, it would redound more to *Francelia's* Prejudice than to his Advantage; after divers Fluctuations of Mind, he chose rather to continue to gain by Subtilty, though with longer time, that which would be much more hazardous by open force, he retired therefore with a design to make further use of that Person whom he had employed before with so good Success.

The Marquis, mean time, having entertained *Francelia* with the Success of that Expedition he had been employed about, without the least taking notice of his having perceived *Cbandore*, she thought fit to conceal from him the knowledge of her seeing of him, in the Opinion, that he had not been discovered, seeing he had not made the least mention of him. Thus did they both dissemble and conceal their different Thoughts and Designs, under pretence of other Discourses. But the Marquis was no sooner shifted in his own Tent, but

but that he went about ordering of things, so that *Chandore* should no longer be a Thorn in his Side. He went to the Commander in Chief, and represented to him, That there were divers of the late Admiral's Retinue that lay idle, which might render signal Service, and he particularly insisted on a certain Page of the late Dukes, to whom he said, the Duke had designed to give an Employment in the Army; that as a Friend to the late Duke, he intreated him to put him upon some Expedition, in order, immediately after his return from thence with Success, to give him the first Vacancy.

This was so well relished by the General, who was both willing to gratifie the Marquis, and to do something in Honour to the Memory of the Duke, that he immediately sent for *Chandore*, and commanded him to act next and immediately under the Chief Commander of those Forces which he was sending forth that night, to surprise and force a Pass from the Enemy. Poor *Chandore*, astonished at the Command, which at any other time he had been ravished to have obeyed, durst not refuse the Honour that was made him,
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though by it he was forced to leave *Francelia* in the Power of his Rival, and not have the time and opportunity of delivering her from it, as she had seemed to desire, nor to take his leave of her; and the General ordering that Horse and Arms should be delivered to him, with all things necessary for that Expedition, out of his particular Store, (which was a singular Favour) and to immediately repair at the Rendezvous of that Party; all that he could do, was to return the General Thanks, and to obey his Orders without delay.

Thus did the Marquis rid himself in an honourable way, of those Inquietudes which this young Rival gave him, without letting him know that the blow came from his Hand.

The Affairs of the Christians growing daily to a Ruine, as fast as the Turks gained Advantages over them, being over-run with the vast number which he powered into that Island, from all the Parts and Dependencies of the *Ottoman* Empire. The French bethought themselves of a timely Retreat, and every Officer perceiving that the next Assault the Infidels should give unto the City of *Cana*, would

would be likely in all Reason to carry it ; they began every one in particular to contrive for their own Safety. Our Marquess, who had a considerable Estate to invite him to live to enjoy it, and who came first into *Candia* but as a Voluntier, was none of the last to provide for his Safety, being the more induc'd to be one of the forwardest on the account of *Francelia*, whom he passionately lov'd.

For this reason the Marquess made choice of that Vessel appointed for the Transportation of the late Duke's Goods and Retinue, it being ready fitted to put to Sea for his Carriage, and in a short time after, having had Intelligence, that that Party which the General had sent, in which *Chandore* was engag'd, had been totally defeated ; and that the Turks pursu'd their Victory so close, and prov'd Conquerors in all places they went ; and that already there were divers French Officers Embark'd, in order to return ; he of his own Power and Authority caus'd that said Galley to put out to Sea, where he and *Francelia*, with all their Goods and Servants being Embark'd, they were the first that came to the French-Coast.

Thus was *Francelia* return'd into her own Country, not without having daily
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been solicited by the Marquess, to obtain the same Favour which the Duke of *Bellame* had enjoy'd. Whether he succeeded in his Addresses to her, I am not able to determine, my Memoires failing me in that particular, yet it may easily be guess'd, that she who was so forward to accept of the Duke's offers to transport her to *Candia*, was no less willing to bestow the same Favours upon a Person that took the care of her in her return to *Erance*. The Marquess was no sooner return'd to *Paris*; but divers of the first Rank desir'd to be inform'd of him, concerning the most remarkable Passages that had hapned in *Candia*, and amongst other things, having once mention'd to a Friend of his, the Rencontre he had with *Francelia*, after the Death of the Duke of *Bellame*, whom he had taken along with him from *Paris*. This Friend related it to another, and he to a third, by which means it came to the Princess *Dorabella's* Ears; and she was extream desirous to learn the Adventure of that young Damsel from her own Mouth.

She having found her Aunt dead at her return, had taken (or the Marquess for her) a handsom Lodging, where she still continued to receive the Marquess's Visits; and pass'd some moments also
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in contriving what excuse to give the World for her Ramble to *Candia*. She thought none more fit, than to say, That while, to her great content, her Aunt was making means to admit her into the Dutcheſs of *Bellame's* Retinue, the Duke, her Husband, had accidentally had a view of her, and had caus'd her to be forcibly carried to *Marseilles*, where he had put her on Board, and carry'd her away to *Candia*, much against her Will, and all the Supplications that she could make to the contrary. With this formal Story she went at *Dorabella's* Command to wait upon her, who was so taken with her feign'd Innocence, and the witty account she gave of her self, and of the Duke of *Bellame*, which she illustrated as she did think fit to her advantage, that what with that her gay Humour, and the prettiness of her Person, she was highly Cares'd by *Dorabella*, and receiv'd into her Family.

Dorabella had not entertain'd *Francelia* very long in her Service, when that *Tyrannides* judg'd it very necessary, for the Advancement of his Affairs, to send her to prevail with her Brother, a Prince of the Isles, to enter into a private League with him, both Offensive and Defensive, notwithstanding a Tripple

League which had not long before been made betwixt the said Prince and others. And *Tyrannides* having had the satisfaction of hearing and admiring the Ingenuity of *Francelia*, he thought her not only fit to accompany *Dorabella* into the Isles, but also judg'd her a proper Instrument to forward his Designs on the Isles, and to influence wholly the Prince and the chiefest Ministers of his Councils : She was therefore pitch'd upon to be one of the Princesses Attendance to the Isles ; and not only as a bare Cypher, but as one proper to manage, with good Directions, any business of State that should be committed to her charge : It is certain, that her sound Judgment, accurate Apprehension ; her happy Memory, her smart Wit, and insinuating Way was sufficient to Captivate the Mind of so Amorous a Prince as was the Prince of the Isles, especially, when all those Accomplishments were accompany'd with some share of Beauty and Love, though but in an outward appearance.

The Princess *Dorabella*, who was very glad at this occasion of going to the Isles, that she might have the opportunity to see once more her Brother, the Prince ; made all the diligence possible to leave *Paris* : In short, she came safe over the Seas

Seas with a magnificent Train, where the Prince her Brother went to meet her. She soon, by all her Charms, so won the Prince, that he quite forgot the Tripple League, to enter into a new Alliance with *Tyrannides*, more strict than ever had yet been, the Articles of which Treatise were Signed, and presently ratify'd by the two Princes. But this was not all, *Francelia*, who had acted but an indifferent part in the procurement of this new Alliance, according to those Instructions she had receiv'd, was to manage things of much greater Consequences yet, though that of breaking the Tripple League and making a new one appear'd to be a Master-stroke. *Francelia's* Cunning and Subtilty, which she conceal'd under a serious Air, did in a short time insinuate very far in the Prince's Mind; insomuch, that when *Dorabella* was to return, he shew'd and express'd no less reluctancy in parting with *Francelia*, as he did with the Princess, and had as much forgot his former Mistress *Cornelia* as he had the Tripple League; his whole Thoughts being for the present bent on *Francelia*. *Dorabella* knew very well the Prince her Brother's natural Propensity to Love, and how apt he was to take Fire, that made

her to press her return, to blow up still more and more those Flames which *Francelia* had kindled in the Prince's Bosom; wherefore she would, in the Prince's presence, frequently bid *Francelia* to prepare for returning; and as oft as she repeated those harsh sounds in the Prince's Ears, he would feel a great disturbance in his Mind. *Francelia* also, who could not but observe the Prince's new-born Passion towards her, would tyrannize, and frequently mention the desires she had of returning; insomuch, that at last the good Prince, not able to contain any longer, broke out into this Passion, *Would to Heaven, Madam*, said he to his Sister, *that you were sensible of the trouble which I feel at the parting with you, you could not for pity but retard your Return for some days longer.* *Dorabella*, glad that the Prince had broke the Ice, reply'd, That she found, the longer she stay'd the more sensible she should be at the Separation from a Person so dear to her as he was; wherefore, since there was a necessity of parting, she thought the sooner were the better to avoid the greater trouble by a less. *I am sensible, Madam*, reply'd the Prince, *of the hard necessity of losing you, and seeing it is unavoidable, be pleas'd to grant me one humble*

ble Request, that I shall make to you before you go, in order to allay the anguish of my Heart for the loss of your dear presence. Is there any thing within my Power, reply'd the Princess, that I can refuse you ? The Prince answering with a profound Bow, said, You cannot but be sensible, Madam, that you have lately found I could refuse you nothing, that emboldens me to go on with my Request, which is, you would be pleas'd to leave a Jewel of yours behind you in my Custody, and under my Charge ; assuring you, that I shall be as careful of it, as of the Apple of my Eye. You needed but to name, to succeed in such a trifle, Sir, reply'd Dorabella, who guess'd well enough at the nature of the Jewel ; Is it any I have about me, Sir, continued she, or any other that I have worn since I came here ? Go fetch, added she, speaking to Francelia, the rest of my Jewels, that the Prince may chuse what he pleases. It is here already, said the Prince, and taking Francelia by the Hand, as she was going out, this is the Jewel which I demand of you, and which I prize above all those that adorn you. The Princess was highly pleas'd as well as Francelia, that the Prince run so readily in the Net that was spread for him ; told him, That she was extreamly sorry she could not for the present grant him his Re-

quest, because she had promis'd *Francelia's* Relations to bring her safe back to them, but that she would endeavour to prevail with them to let her come again, to have the honour to be made Maid of Honour to the Princess, and that she would so soon as she came to *Paris* again, so far oblige the Prince, as to write a Letter to the Princess, to beg the favour of her to receive *Francelia* in that Quality, which if she accepted of, then should *Francelia* be immediately sent over to the Isles again.

The Prince was forc'd to have patience, and to be contented with this Assurance, not doubting but that the Princess's good Nature would easily be wrought upon ; and truly he feared much more *Cornelia's* high Spirit and jealous Temper, than any opposition from the Princess.

The reason of the Princess's not yielding to *Francelia's* remaining in the Isles at that time, was, that she might punctually follow those Orders which had been given her, which was, first to try the Prince's Inclinations towards *Francelia*, and if certain to take effect according to their desires, then to bring her back to receive such further Instructions, and to be instructed with such Secrets, which there was no occasion otherwise to disclose to her.

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The Princess *Dorabella* having now compleated all that was in her Commission, and not before, she was impatient to return, to give so good an account of her Negotiation as she was able to do ; and the Prince over-joy'd at the Promises he had obtain'd from his Sister, was not so earnest, as before, to retain her longer. *Dorabella* return'd then, with all the outward Expressions of Sorrow, for parting with so dear a Brother, but with a real excess of inward Joy at her good Success ; and the Prince return'd with those that attended him.

Amongst the Grandees that had follow'd the Prince, *Villarius* was the most magnificent, and who had the most knowledg of all that the Prince had transacted, either private or openly. He was at that time so much in the Prince's Favour, that the Prince thought fit to tell him, he would have him to keep secret what he had heard or seen, of what Nature soever, especially of his new Amours, from the knowledg of *Cornelia*, whose high Spirit and jealous Humour he apprehended above all things. *Villarius* did in part observe what the Prince required of him ; but his hatred to *Cornelia* was such, that he could not conceal from her knowledg the Prince's new

Mistress, which he let her understand by a third hand, with hopes that it would even break her proud Heart.

This Feud betwixt those two eminent Favourites, was of that Consequence, that it is convenient I should give the Reader some knowledg of it; because that in the pursuance of *Francelia's* Adventures, those two Persons are very remarkably concern'd.

Not long before the Prince of the Isles return'd from his Exile, the springing Beauty of a young Lady did make such a noise all over the Kingdom, that *Villarius*, who was related to her, grew very impatient to see her. It is well known that he was the most accomplish'd Person in the World, in all respects of Gallantry, insomuch that he seldom tempted, but he overcame; and all his Conquests being gain'd at a very easy rate, he made so little value of them, that Love, whom he had so often offended, was resolv'd at last to revenge herself for all his Inconstancy towards the fair Sex, by the means of this his Kinswoman's Security.

Villarius being related to that Family, as I have said, he took that advantage to give a Visit to his Kinswoman, the young Lady, who then liv'd with a Relation

lation of hers ; there he was received as a near Relation, but his great Application to this Charming young Lady, did soon put into the head of this Relation, that *Villarius* did not afford them the Honour of his Presence, on the bare account of a Visit. *Villarius*, when he saw that Beauty, was charm'd with her, and at this very first enterview, he did tell her all that so passionate an Heart as his was could express, of tenderness to so amiable a Person. She affected to seem as if she understood not Loves Dialect, and that did but the more inflame *Villarius's* desires.

He was not long, by his frequent Visits, before he made her to confess, she was improv'd under his Tuition, and that she began to answer pertinently to her Master's Interrogatories, yet not so subtilly, but that her Governnant had such warning given her, that she thereupon hastned a Match, which had been some time in hand, betwixt that young Beauty, and a Gentleman of a very good Estate : In short, the Matrimony was Consummated, notwithstanding all the secret Oppositions that *Villarius* could make against it. However, he left not his pursuits for that, tho he acted not so openly as before ; and she answer'd so obligingly all his Expressions of Love, that he made no doubt but

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to come to Enjoyment, so soon as any fair Opportunity should offer it self; and he had some reason to believe this, by the Assurances that she had given him, of the Love she had for so accomplish'd a Person.

Things were at this pass, when the full Resolutions were taken to bring the Exil'd Prince of the Isles in again, which was soon after accomplish'd, to the great Joy and Content of the whole Nation. Amongst those Ladies that long'd for the Honour to kiss that Prince's Hands, our young married Lady was not the least Solicitous. She received that Honour, not as the rest of the Ladies did, but with an opinion, that when the Prince saluted her, (as he did the rest of the Ladies) she had observed something in his Eyes, and felt something from his Lips, which she fancied he had not express'd to others; and from that time she entertain'd such Thoughts in her Mind, as were very suitable to her Ambition. She began to fancy, that to be beloved by a Prince, was an Honour as far beyond that she could receive from *Villarius*, as that was above that of the Insipid dull Animal, call'd an Husband. She grew Melancholly upon it, and Sick also, which made *Villarius* to double his Visits; but he still found an entertain-
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ment which did daily grow colder and colder ; yet he had so good an opinion of himself, that he did wholly attribute it to her Indisposition of Body, which was really a Distraction of Mind. In a word, though the Lady did in time recover, as to her bodily Distemper, she still seem'd to be in an anxiety of Mind, which set *Villarius's* Wits to work to find out the cause, but without Success.

At last *Villarius's* Visits grew so uneasy to her, that she had not the Power to conceal any longer, she did not find in them that Delight and Satisfaction which she formerly had done : though she was far from telling him so much, yet her Actions spoke so plainly the Change Ambition had wrought in her Mind and Inclinations, that *Villarius* could not but be as fully inform'd of it, as if she had spoken it to him, in as plain Language as ever she uttered in her Life. The most apprehensive *Villarius* presently understood her, which made him to say, *What is there in my Conduct, Madam, of late, that may have produced so strange an alteration in you, as you manifest in your Actions, notwithstanding all the Care and Circumspection with which you manage your self?* She sigh'd, and readily answer'd, That she had nothing to alledg against his Conduct, and that
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if he found any Alteration in her, he was to attribute it to some Relicks of her late Distemper, which peradventure did render her something more shagrine than usually, which he ought to bear with. *Yes, Madam, I believe you,* reply'd *Villarius,* and I am very apt also to judge right of the cause of your Illness; Love, Love is the Author of my Misfortune, and I am the more to be pitied, because I am left in the dark, as to the Object of your new Affections. My Lord, answered she again, I here declare before Heaven, that I know no Person in the World, for whom I have a greater Inclination, than for your self. *Yes, Madam,* reply'd *Villarius,* but no Love, you had not else so often deferr'd and put off from time to time those Favours, which you have been pleas'd to own my constant Passion did deserve. I find, Madam, that you reserv'd them for some more happy Rival, while I must still languish, and be fed with vain Hopes and empty Promises. Well, my Lord, replied *Cornelia,* I will confess to you, that you have a Rival, but after so fair a Confession, do me so much Justice as to believe that this your Rival is not so in point of Love: No, my Lord, it is in Ambition, that you are rival'd, as a mark of my Love to you; I have brought my self to confess, that my Ambition prevails above my Love, and that it will be the first serv'd and

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satisfied. In a word, my Lord, this last Passion is so powerful in my Mind, that nothing less than a crown'd Head can allay it. I must be belov'd by the Prince, I must be the Prince's Mistress, or I must die in Dispair. At this declaration *Villarius* stood motionless like a Statue, which gave her time to add: I must allow of your Surprizal, my Lord, but believe that my discovering of this Secret to you, is the greatest mark of my Love, that I could possibly confer upon you, till by your means and assistance I am entertain'd by the Prince, which is the only way to satisfy my Ambition, after which I faithfully promise to reward your Affection and Services, with my last of Favours, and to consent to whatsoever you shall please to desire from me: And finding that *Villarius* remained still mute: Remember, my Lord, that the Prince is not properly your Rival; and, by Heavens, you need to fear no other: It is my Ambition only that he must satisfy, but you my Love; only Ambition will be first serv'd.

Villarius looking still stedfastly on her, after he had fetch'd a deep Sigh, answered: Certainly, Madam, your thoughts of me are very singular, and you must needs believe me the most passionate and constant Lover, or a Man of the most easy temper in the World, to be work'd upon. Well, Madam, you shall find I am both; but you must judg
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of my easiness to yield to such strange and surprizing Propositions, as you have made to me, by the excess of my Passion towards you. Yes, Madam, I will use that Power I have with the Prince, to satiate your Ambition; but deceive me not, Madam, after that, neither defer one moment longer, to satisfy my Passion; otherwise, I must tell you, Madam, that you will raise such another Passion in me, that all your Charms would never have Power to allay, and that would transform your best of Friends into an implacable Enemy. I go, Madam, to work your ends with the Prince, as you desire, that I may, without further delay, obtain what my Passion has so long languish'd for. With saying this, *Villarius* went out, and in a short time he so wrought *Cornelia's* Interest with the Prince, whom he found very much inclining that way, that *Cornelia* said she had no more to do, but to reward *Villarius* according to his Merits and her Promises. But she, who upon the Favours which she had newly receiv'd from the Prince, through *Villarius's* Mediation, had let her still growing Ambition stifle her Love; in lieu of gratifying him, as she had promis'd, did after that shun all the opportunities of seeing him; which being perceived by the slighted *Villarius*, and that all he could do would not so much as get her to discourse with

with him, nor so much as answer any of his Letters, he turn'd that great passion of Love he had for her, into as great an one of Hatred and Revenge, though not without a great Conflict, in which at last Revenge prevail'd. Thus that Lady, to obtain great Titles, did sacrifice to her high Spirit and Ambition, the most constant Lover that she had ever had, which will in some measure justify *Villarius's* severity towards her, of which we shall have occasion to treat some particulars in this Discourse, so far as they relate to our *Francelia*.

The Princess *Dorabella* being returned to *Paris*, and having given *Tyrannides* a full and satisfactory account of her Negotiation, *Francelia* was presently taken to task; she was intrusted with the Court-Secrets, and fully instructed in the part she was to act, both with the Prince of the Isles, and with those State-Ministers and Courtiers, that were become Pensioners to *Tyrannides's* Mercenaries. *Dorabella* was also advis'd to write immediately to the Princess of the Isles concerning *Francelia*, that the Prince's Affections towards her might not cool. *Villarius* was also solicited to decline the Interest of *Cornelia*, and wholly to espouse that of *Francelia*, which being altogether according

according to his own Inclinations, he most earnestly imbrac'd, and did as vigorously pursue.

The Death of *Dorabella*, which for the Suddenness and Nature of it, surpriz'd all the World, following presently after, and a Letter coming from the Princess of the Isles to have *Francelia* sent to be one of her Maids of Honour, notwithstanding all the Arts that *Cornelia* used to the contrary. *Francelia* was put into the Hands of a Person of Quality, who took care to conduct her over into the Isles, and to resign her into her Majesty's Hands: There were private Lodgings got for her at first, till others were prepared for her in the Court. The Prince failed not to visit her so soon as she came, and to express all the Passion imaginable towards her; but all this he did with the greatest Privacy imaginable, for fear of raising such a storm in *Cornelia's* Breast against him, which he should not be able to weather. Yet was she inform'd of it by *Villarius's* means, who hop'd it would tear her Heart in pieces. The Prince continued so assiduous in his private Visits to *Francelia*, it began to be suspected he had some Inclinations that way, and from divers Hands did *Cornelia* receive the ungrateful News of her Rival's getting ground

ground upon her ; mean time the Prince
 was very diligent also in visiting *Cornelia*,
 to take all Suspicions from her : But that
 would not do, she was too subtile and too
 much concern'd, to calmly suffer a
 Stranger to intrench upon her Preroga-
 tive. She was the Prince's first Mistress,
 since his return to the Isles ; nay, his be-
 loved Mistress, on whom he had bestow'd
 vast Sums of Money, and the highest De-
 grees of Honour, and she would not
 calmly yield all those Advantages to a
French-Woman, of neither Birth nor
 Fortune, beyond what she had got by her
 Services. This caus'd *Cornelia* to set Spies
 upon the Prince's Actions, that should
 bring her word when the Prince should
 go next to see her Rival, that she might
 intercept him, and take him to her self.
 It was not long before News was brought
 to *Cornelia*, that the Prince was to sup
 with *Francelia* at her Lodgings, with
Villarius ; she presently gave orders that
 a very great Supper and Banquet should
 be prepar'd against such an hour that
 Night, and getting into a Coach, she ho-
 ver'd up and down near *Francelia's* Lodg-
 ings, just about that time she had been
 inform'd the Prince was to go thither in
 a Hackney Coach : At last she was told
 that the Prince was in that Coach which
 she

she saw coming towards her ; she presently caus'd her Coach-man to turn about, and so she met the Prince full-butt ; she told him she was just going to invite him to come and sup with her that Night ; that she design'd to surprize him, which was the reason she had not given him a solemn Invitation ; then she wondered at his being so private in a Hackney, ask'd him where he was then going? that it made her fear he had some private Affligation : to all which the fond Prince made no other Answer, than that he was going in a Frollick to be merry with half a dozen Persons, which he was told were got together, in whose Company he very much delighted ; and finding that *Cornelia* made no mention of *Francelia*, he did all he could to divert her from any such thought, by beginning a Discourse of quite another nature, and by freely getting into *Cornelia*'s Coach out of his, so went along with her, you may imagine with what Satisfaction.

Cornelia did treat him the best she could, and made him to pledg her so frequently, that at last he had quite forgot his other Appointment, and began to be as merry and well pleas'd, as if he had had no other design than that he was about. In short, *Cornelia* did so flatter him, that

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he lay there all that Night, and it was late the next Morning before he departed.

Mean time *Villarius* and *Francelia* had been presently inform'd of the trick which had been play'd the Prince, so that so soon as they heard that *Cornelia* had seiz'd on him, they had given up all hopes of seeing him that Night, they sup'd together : *Villarius* gave *Francelia* divers Assurances of his humble Services, and that he would highly revenge that Affront which *Cornelia* had put upon them ; and they both concerted together, which way to return to her some Trouble of the same nature. *Villarius* told *Francelia*, That he had been lately inform'd that *Cornelia* had had some private Conference with a certain person, whom he would cause to be watch'd, and that he doubted not, but he should, by the means of his Spies, surprize them together ; that if so, the Prince should have the Satisfaction to catch his Rival with her. *Villarius*, in fine, told so many fine things to *Francelia*, and gave her that Night such Assurances of his Friendship and Affection, that she remain'd very well satisfied with him.

She had been inform'd of the Prince's Humour to a tittle ; amongst the rest, that

that the more a Woman pretended to Vertue and Chastity, the more was the Prince's Heart inflam'd towards such a Person, she resolv'd therefore to appear very reserv'd to the Prince, and never to allow him any Favours, but with the greatest Reluctancy imaginable; and she did carry her self after that towards him with so much seeming Modesty and Vertue, that she pass'd in the fond Prince's Thoughts for a very Angel.

The Prince was no sooner got to his Palace again, and retired for some Moments, but that *Villarius* came to him with a smiling Countenance; the Prince told him presently, as a great Secret, how he had been met by *Cornelia*, who had taken him to Supper with her, and that for fear she should have any Distrust of him, he had condescended to her Desires, and lay'n there all Night. *Villarius*, to let him know that he was not so secret in that business as he imagin'd, told him what they had for Supper, and some of their private Discourse: at which the Prince seem'd as much surprized as could possibly be. Sir, said *Villarius* to him, *To let you know that I am informed of all Cornelia's Actions, I shall e're long let you see how faithful she is to you, and what reason you have to be so to her, and to stand*

so much in awe of her as you do. I know
 one of her private Friends, Sir, continued
 he, and I shall be punctually inform'd of their
 next time and place of meeting, and it shall
 be your fault if you surprize them not toge-
 ther. The Prince, who was unwilling to
 believe any such thing of her without
 good Proof, yet glad if he could have
 such an opportunity to convince her of
 her Treachery towards him, whereby
 to take down her high Spirit, did not
 know whether he had best to thank *Villa-*
rius for his offer, and to accept of it, yet
 at last he said, That certainly, if she was
 so false to him, he should have just cause
 to slight her, and more publicly
 own his Love to *Francelia*, whom he
 thought to be very vertuous, and that he
 feared he should have much to do to gain
 the point; that he did not dislike her for
 it: On the contrary, it made him but
 the more earnest to obtain that which
 she was so tender of, and so unwilling to
 part with, he verily believing she was a
 pure Virgin. *Villarius* having inform'd
 him in his Opinion, so soon as he left
 the Prince, who bid him go and make
 an Apology for him to *Francelia*; he
 went to her, and told her all that the
 Prince had said concerning her, and let
 her know how necessary it was for her
 to

to carry on the same Humour of Modesty and Vertue, with which she had already so well prepossessed her princely Lover.

The Prince, who had not seen *Francelia* in three days, thought the time very long, and notwithstanding his fair Promises to *Cornelia*, to remain constant to her, he went privately to see her that Night. She who had been very free and pleasant with *Villarins* but the Night before, did put on her feigned Modesty, and so inflamed the Prince with it, that he protested he had never met with a Humour so agreeable to his as was hers, and that he languish'd for her. Sir, replied *Francelia*, the Honour which you are pleas'd to do me, is infinitely above my Merits; and I am sorry, Sir, continued she, that I have nothing to return to you for it, but my Prayers to Heaven for the Prosperity of your Grace; all that I can do more, is to wish it were in my power to do more. This said with a languishing Air, and a dying accent, and with Eyes, which though full of Fire, were fix'd on the Floor, did so charm the good Prince, that he answer'd, I wish, Madam, you would take the pains to consult with your self a little, and reflect, whether you have not besides your good Wishes, something else at your own disposal, that you might

might bestow on me, for that great and ardent Passion I feel in my Bosom towards you. Peradventure, continued the Prince, that some other might be more happy than me, though not more in love with your Charms, and that you would repay their Love with Love, and return your Heart for theirs. There is no Person in the World, Great Sir, reply'd *Francelia*, that can set a greater value and esteem on your Vertues and Bounties than I do; and it is certainly the greatest of my Troubles, that I am destitute of means to express more effectually than with words, what I feel in my Bosom towards so much Perfection as you are master of. These are still my Wishes, Madam, and you certainly are Mistress of far greater Treasures, answer'd the Prince; you have a Heart, Madam, to bestow, because I have been credibly inform'd that you have never engag'd it yet; would I had wherewith to purchase such a Treasure. If Love could do it, I dare boast of deserving it, beyond all the World. You have but too much Worth, Sir, reply'd she, to purchase so mean a thing; if any thing could gain a Heart but in exchange of another, no other price, Sir, can buy that Merchandise. If that were all, reply'd the Prince, were I Master of a thousand Hearts, they should all be laid at your Feet in exchange of yours; mean time, be pleas'd, most charming *Francelia*,

cellia, to accept of my single Heart, in exchange of yours, with all the Love and Passion that your Perfections have kindled in it. I can but desire and wish, Sir, replied *Francelia*, that I had Merits sufficient to deserve such an Honour, if it were in your Power, Great Sir, to bestow it once more : you know, Sir, how often like a Lover you have bestow'd it upon another Person, with whom I might dispute it, as to Esteem, Respect, and even Love to your Excellency ; if you had not engag'd it farther, since even past all Redemption, but by Death. That is it, Sir, that makes me say, you have not wherewith to purchase an Heart, and that I can have nothing but my best Wishes and Prayers for you besides that general Esteem that all who know you have for your Perfections. The Prince was so strangely surpriz'd at this unexpected time, that he was very glad *Villarius* came in to break off the Discourse for the present, and give him time to consider of what he should say to so cunning a Mistress as he had now to do withal. *Villarius* came to tell the Prince that that very Night he would shew him some sport.

Francelia had been receiv'd a pretty while since into the Princesses Retinue and had Possession of her Lodgings at Court, notwithstanding all the Intrigues and

and Plots which *Cornelia* had made to defeat her. The Prince therefore had not far to go to visit her at any time. *Cornelia* had appointed to meet her new Gallant in her own Lodgings that very Night, where he was to pass to her Embraces; he told the Prince of this, and assur'd him, That if he would go and surprize them in the dead of the Night, he should certainly find them together. The Prince, whose Bosom was newly inflam'd with Passion towards the charming *Francelia*, assur'd him, That he would for never so much lose so fair an opportunity of detecting *Cornelia*'s secret Amours, that he might have just cause to break off with her; and wholly turn all his Affection on his new charming Mistress. So the Prince retir'd with *Villarius*, telling *Francelia*, That he would leave to another time what he had further to say to her; and he went away to prepare himself for the night Adventure.

Cornelia had cast her Eye on a Gentleman, who made a very and considerable Figure at Court, and whilst *Francelia*, Meen, Youth, and Vigour, was very much according to her Relish. The Prince's Distractions in his Amours, did not permit him to give her all that Satis-

faction which she us'd to receive from him, and which her Constitution required. She had therefore taken the opportunity to let this Person know that he was to her Mind, and that it was his own fault if he were not happy ; and that Commerce had lasted so long, that it began to be whisper'd abroad ; but she did not much value that, because it made for her purpose, both in creating some small Jealousy in the Prince to unite him the closer to her, and to engage the more her great Enemy *Villarius*. *Cornelia* and her Lover for more Freedom, and better Conveniency, had concluded the Enjoyment of one another in her own Appartment, where all the Servants were at her sole disposal, and would be all very secret. The Gallant was come, and they had plentifully feasted in a private Appartment, where none but the Servants of the Secret were at any time admitted to enter ; and from thence there was a private ^{passage} to *Cornelia's* Bed-Chamber : so that that very night the Prince could come at any time for some sport, though he had free access, and that all Doors were continually open to him, yet the Lover might with ease escape from his knowledg, except the Prince should surprize them in Bed, at the

the dead time of the Night, which was not likely to be, without it were upon some intelligence, and with design. About midnight the two Lovers went to Bed, and presently after, by the removing of some things, the change of Servants Stations, and the retirement of others, that Servant who *Villarius* had gain'd, and who was his faithful Spie, gave notice, that now it was time for the Prince to come. The Prince came accompanied to the Door of *Cornelia's* Lodgings by *Villarius*; he went in, and thence directly enter'd *Cornelia's* Chamber, where he found them both in Bed together, the one lying in the others Arms, yet with such Circumstances, and the effects of such a present Wit as had *Cornelia*, that the Prince was absolutely deluded.

Cornelia had no sooner been inform'd by that Woman who was upon the Watch in the Anti-Chamber, that she heard some Body coming up Stairs, and had heard the Gates open; but remembering the Proverb, 'Tis good to be sure, she pull'd off at once her Night-Cloaths, which hung all together, and clap'd them on her Lover's Head just when she heard her Chamber-Door to open with that Key the Prince usually kept, which opened all passages to him: She fell to

groan and complain, as if she was extraordinary ill. The Prince ran presently to her Bed-side, and seeing *Cornelia* in a Woman's Arms, and she making sad complaints, he would not draw the Curtain more open, for fear the Light that was on the Table should offend the sick *Cornelia*, but stooping down, *What is the matter with you, Madam*, said the good Prince. *Oh! dear Sir, is it you*, answered she, *how glad am I you are here!* *Good Sir, do so much as hold my Head which is ready to split in pieces, while this Gentlewoman runs to my Closet for something for me.* *I'll go my self*, reply'd the Prince, *tell me but what I shall fetch?* *No, pray Sir*, reply'd *Cornelia*, *you know not where to find it, pray give her leave to go: Come, I'll hold the Prince's Head in my Arms*, continued she, *while you get out of Bed, he shall not see you, do not fear it.* The Prince, who thought it was the Gentlewoman's Modesty that requir'd that Ceremony from him; freely let *Cornelia* blind him while the Gallant slip'd out of Bed, and went to the Woman Sentinel to bid her run into the Closet, and fetch any Glass out from thence, to amuse the Prince with, while he should dress himself and make his escape.

Mean time *Cornelia* kept the Prince in Discourse; sometimes crying out of her Head,

ex- Head, and desiring him to hold it gent-
 pre- ly ; she told him, That having had some
 orne- small symptoms the last Night, present-
 king- ly after Supper, of this violent Fit, she
 y the had desir'd that young Gentlewoman,
 ight who had sup'd with her, to lie with
 l the her also that she might talk with her if
 at is she could not sleep, and to be serviceable in
 the case she grew worse of her Head, that
 , an- her Distemper had so increased, that she
 ere had been forc'd to pull off all her Head-
 Head- Cloaths, and to toss and tumble about
 this for ease ; that she was just slumbering a
 hing little in the Gentlewoman's Arms when
 ince, his Highness came ; and that she was so
 Sir, overjoyed at his coming, that she thought
 find she was something more at ease than she
 hold had been, and believ'd she should sleep
 ued if his Highness would but lie down, and
 t see let her lay her Head in his Bosom ; to
 ight which the Prince presently yielded. By
 that this time the Woman was come with the
 ree- Bottle of Cordial, and holding *Cornelia's*
 ant Night-Cloaths behind her, which the
 man Gallant had given her, she made as if
 set, she had taken them up near the Bed-side,
 to she gave the Cordial to *Cornelia*, who de-
 ould sired the Prince to take some, which he
 e in did. She sent the Woman for fresh
 her Night-Cloaths, but the Prince, who
 ad, was mightily concerned in himself, for

having so easily given credit to what had been so fallſly reported of her, and at her illneſs, was mov'd with ſo much tender Compaſſions towards her, that he would not by any means permit her to put on freſh Linen, but ſaid, that thoſe ſhe wore before, would do very well, and that he would be contented with them, ſo he made haſte to undreſs him, that he might go to Bed to his dear afflicted Miſtreſs, and to afford her all the Aſſiſtance and Comfort he could poſſible, by way of Compensation for the wrong he had done her in his Thoughts, fully reſolv'd to tell *Villarius* his own, and never more to believe ſo ſlightly on falſe Reports.

Mean time the Gallant was fled, glad that he had come off ſo clear, from ſo eminent a Danger, thinking he ſhould never praiſe and admire enough the ready Wit, and ingenious Contrivance of *Cornelia*, who he doubted not after that but would lull the Prince aſleep in thoſe Arms which he had been freed from, much againſt his Will. *Villarius*, on the other hand, wondering that the Prince ſtay'd ſo long, that he heard no noiſe in the Houſe, nor ſaw any Lights, did not know what to think; he had the Curioſity to hearken at a low Window, and
while

while he was listning he saw the Gate open, and a Man run out like Lightning, insomuch, that *Villarius*, who at first had a design to stop and examine him, soon lost that thought, the Person being so suddenly got out of sight, and out of hearing, by the favour of the Night: That made *Villarius* conclude rightly, that the Prince had miss'd of the Prey, and that *Cornelia* had so well inveagl'd and allur'd him, that he would pass the Night with her; and not doubting but that Person who had run out of the House so hastily, was the Gallant, he a little while after retir'd, vex'd that the Prince had lost so fair an opportunity of discovering *Cornelia*'s falseness to him, and himself of giving *Francelia* the next Morning a pleasant account of that night's Discoveries, but not without design of out-witting *Cornelia* at some other time. Thus did *Villarius* leave the Prince in the Arms of that Person he had lov'd, but now hated most, not without promising to himself yet a full and entire Revenge, when the next opportunity should present it self.

The next Morning, when news was brought him that the Prince was in his own Appartment, he came to him, and the Prince receiv'd him with such a cold-

ness that express'd what were his Sentiments, and how much he thought he had wrong'd him in putting him on such Extravagancies ; and scandalising a Person whom he lov'd, to gratify his particular Revenge. *Villarius* amaz'd at the Prince's Expressions, said no more, but only begg'd his Highnesses Pardon, and told him, That it was none of his fault, if after he had lodg'd the Dear, he had been so blinded as not to see him, and to let him go. *Let who go ?* reply'd the Prince, *I rush'd into Cornelia's Room ere it was possible she could have any notice of me, and I found her in her Bed, her Hair dishevel'd, almost distracted with a cruel Head-ach, and no Person in the Room but a Gentlewoman that assisted her. That was the Man, Sir, you were to have seiz'd, and who having escap'd your Hands, got away from me also afterwards, through the favour of the Night, and the nimbleness of his Feet. Do you think I do not know a Man from a Woman ?* reply'd the Prince peevishly. *Not at all times,* Sir, it seems, answer'd *Villarius*, almost mad, *I say again,* added he, *That Cornelia's Wit has deceiv'd you, and that that Person that was in Bed with her, was a real Man, to her knowledge, however she has made him pass with you for a Woman. A Man with Womens Night-Cloaths on his Head,*

Head, and a Woman bare-headed, said the Prince: here he paus'd, as if reflecting within himself. Yes, Sir, said Villarius, now you have unfolded the Riddle; under the favour of Cornelia's Night-Cloaths you have let the Minion escape your Knowledge. How? said the Prince, looking on the Ground, as if musing still; *If it was so, nothing could be more false and treacherous. There was no other way left, but under that disguise to escape you, Sir, said Villarius, and the more you will be pleas'd to reflect upon every particular Circumstance, the more the Cheat will appear clear to your Understanding. Why should she be without Night-Cloaths just at my coming, yet afterwards put them on, and never more complain of them, no in truth, scarce of her Head-ach,* said the Prince. *Ay, Sir, and where did she find them, said Villarius? Her Woman brought them to her, reply'd the Prince. I believe so, Sir, reply'd Villarius, when the Blade had no more use for them. She sent the Gentlewoman that was in Bed with her,* said the Prince, *to her Closet for some Cordial. And did that Person bring it back?* Villarius ask'd. *No, said the Prince, musing, it was that Woman that brought her Night-Cloaths. Very well, Sir, said Villarius, how did that modest Gentlewoman that was in Bed with Cornelia rise? before your*

face,

face, Sir ? No ; odds fish, reply'd the Prince, Cornelia, I remember she bid me hold her Head while she should get out of the Bed, and though I should have had a mind to have seen her, I could not, she hugg'd me so close, notwithstanding the most violent Head-ach she had but just before complain'd of. Replied Villarius, A very convenient way to blind you, Sir, while the other escaped. I begin to mistrust there was some Fuggle in it, said the Prince, when I consider well every Circumstance ; in truth, she did not once complain of her Head-ach all the night long after that, but turn'd from me and sigh'd often. Well, she shall never deceive me more, and if we can but get such another opportunity, I'll warrant you I'll secure her Stallion ; I find I was deluded by her Carrresses, her false Embraces, which she us'd no longer than to serve her turn ; that once done she prov'd to me, the rest of the Night, as cold and indifferent as if I had not been in Bed with her. Could you blame her, Sir, said Villarius, you had disappointed her Amorous Hopes, defeated her sweet Expectation, and depriv'd her of all those Joys she was going to surfeit with ; and would you after that have had her to embrace a Person that had so unexpectedly disappointed her of all her Pleasures ? Well, no more on't, said the Prince, I will this Afternoon divert

this Shagrin it has brought on me, with a Glass of Wine ; get half a dozen of our Friends together against six ; send me word where you are, and I'll come to you. *Villarius* told the Prince he would go about it instantly, so took his leave.

The Prince, at the merry meeting that Evening, was very pleasant, especially towards the latter end : at last he stole away from the Company, after he had told *Villarius* where he was going, and he went to visit *Francelia*, whom he found but just come from the Princess's Apartment. He told her that he had been making merry, and that he came to shew her that he was still the same towards her, that if she pleas'd to accept of a Royal Heart, he had one at her Service. *Had you ever more than one, Sir ?* answer'd *Francelia*. No faith, replied the Prince, but that shall be yours, continued he. Then you have none to give, Sir, replied she, for that you had you gave away to the Princess in Marriage, and since that time it has been no longer at your Highness's Disposal ; some small sparks of it may light by accident on other Objects sometimes, but the whole Flame cannot be fed, but by that Fuel which the Princess affords it. Never say that, Madam, replied the Prince ; you, your Charms have made it burn far more fiercely than ever the Princess
has

has done : I am very sorry, Sir, answered *Francelia*, that I have any thing belonging to me that serves to feed others Fires ; and I would use all my Endeavours to bestow my Fuel on a Fire of my own kindling. You cannot be so cruel as you would seem to be, replied the Prince, who began to be a little more frolick, and to play with his Hands. I do not think there is any Cruelty, Sir, answered she, in avoiding being cruel to my self. Saying this, she pull'd a String, after which some of her Servants enter'd the Room. The Prince presently understood the meaning of it, as though *Francelia* seem'd to employ one about something there ; he therefore retired, telling her softly, he would not leave her so, but would declare more fully his Mind to her yet, the next time he came again to see her ; with that he took his leave.

Francelia did continually manage the Prince, as she found occasion, and as he ministred opportunity ; but still she got ground of him, and finding that she had obtain'd already the greatest Ascendant over him that could be, she resolv'd on an Exploit that would shew her Master-piece, and the Power of her Beauty and Wit : She found that the Prince, to obtain the least favour of her, would not stick at any thing, but grant whatever she

she required, and she had all along bend-
ed her Discourses that way, she thought
it now high time to come to the point ;
wherefore, the next time that the Prince
would give her an opportunity, she re-
solved to improve it, and to lay before
him the Conditions on which she would
yield. All this, not so much to satisfy
her Conscience and pretended Vertue, as
to make the Prince so surely her own,
that she might command him as abso-
lutely as she pleased, in-all that she should
put him upon, for that Interest which
had brought her over into the Isles. The
Prince, on his part, resolved to yield
whatever she should desire of him, to
obtain his ends, did conclude within him-
self, to subscribe to her Conditions, what
ever they should be, and did with Impa-
tience wait for the next opportunity to
declare fully his Mind to her, and to ex-
pose his weakness naked before her. Thus
were our two Lovers ready to enter on a
Conclusion, the next time they had the
opportunity of a free Conversation.

Mean time the indefatigable *Villarius*,
who was more netl'd than ever since the
last time *Cornelia* had outwitted him and
the Prince, did make what diligence he
could to learn the time of a new Assignati-
on; he was not long without being inform-
ed,

ed, that by some Circumstances and Alterations were made in *Cornelia's* Chamber, there was some new design in hand; the Spies therefore made the best use they could of their Eyes and Ears, and at last learned for certain, that some body was to be privately admitted and entertained the following Night; they presently informed *Villarius* of it, and he, the Prince, and they both concerted together of the means to secure them safe, and no more to be deceived as they had been before: That which made the Prince more earnest than ever, to detect *Cornelia* in her Inconstancy, was, that he might have more colour and just ground to break off with her, to give himself wholly up to his new Mistress, and to own her publicly, which was a humour that he highly affected.

The Prince having declared that he would be wholly guided by *Villarius* in this surprisal, at last thought fit to get three or four of his own Servants to go along with them, to place at the Doors without, to secure whatever came out of the House, in case they should miss of the Bird in the Nest. He did not doubt but that the last danger the two Lovers had been in, would make them more circumspect for the future, and that they know-

knowing the Prince had a Key that opened all Doors within the House, yet he could not get into the House without the outward Gate was opened to him, and that that would be a sufficient time to give notice to the Lovers, and to let them escape. *Villarius* therefore had ordered one of his Spies to leave a back Door upon the Latch only, that they might come in without noise.

Things being thus ordered, and the hour come, the Prince and *Villarius* go, with the Servants, to *Cornelia's* Apartment; where *Villarius* plac'd the Men at the Fore-gate, with special order to take, dead or alive, whoever should offer to go out, and not yield to them. The Prince and he, after that, went to the back-gate, where, after the Prince was got in, *Villarius* remain'd behind to keep Centry there, fully resolved to make sure of any Person that should sally out that way. The Prince got up Stairs, pass'd a long Gallery, and at last made a shift to lose himself in the dark, not being used to that part of the House; however, after he had blundered up and down a pretty while, he thought he heard some Voices, he hearkned, and drew nearer the place, whence he thought the Voices came, there he heard *Cornelia* say, *I never*
spent

spent an Evening worse in my Life than that, my Dear, though the Prince was very pleasant, and more than ordinarily kind, because you were not there ; did he but know how loathsome all his Courtship is to me, especially when you come in my Mind, he would not trouble me with it. I declare, that next to Villarius, I hate his Conversation, it is so insipid, that were it not to divert him from wholly adhering to that French Trollop he has lately got, (whose measures I will break or ruin all) I did not care whether I did ever see him again. It has been no little cause of wonder to me, Madam, replied the Blade, that you could conceive any Hatred against so accomplished a person, as is Villarius ; a Man so powerful with the Prince, and who has serv'd you so affectionately too. He has so, replied Cornelia, and that is the greatest cause of my Hatred to him, next the Love that I bear to you, which makes me despise the very Prince. Villarius fancies he merits all things from me ; that no Woman in the World is able to withstand his Temptations, and that all must truckle under that Power, which he has gained over the Prince's easy Mind ; but I am resolved to so rival him in that, though I value it not in any other respect, that he shall know my Power, and his own Weakness, as well as his Masters.

I despise them both, and laugh at their weaknesses ; neither could all his Courtships find
such

that, such returns from me, as you have done, for
 plea- you alone have I kept my Affection intire. And
 cause the Prince, with all his Power, is not to be
 how compar'd with the Pleasure I now enjoy in
 cially seeing you, and being alone with you all this
 from Night.

Villa- These passionate Expressions being ac-
 spid, companied with divers tender Actions,
 y ad- which though the Prince could not see,
 y got, he could hear, did let him judg that
 I did they would be soon followed with what
 s. It the Reader may imagine. This doubtless
 Ma- to any other Lover, would have made
 con- him violently to rush into the Chamber,
 per- with Sword in hand, and have made the
 with Delinquent wash with his Blood, the
 Etio- stain laid upon his Honour ; but the good
 and natur'd Prince, far from making use of
 him, that Advantage, was a pretty while
 makes fumbling at the Door, before he could
 ncies or would open it, insomuch that the
 man Gallant had sufficient time to make his
 pta- Escape out of the Chamber by the Fore-
 that door. Yet the Prince entered the Room
 ce's with his Sword drawn, and looking ve-
 ival- ry furiously every where: *Where is that*
 her Villain, said he, *that dares be so bold to ap-*
 l his *pear here ?* At these Words, and what
 eak- with the Fright *Cornelia* had conceiv'd at
 find the sight of a naked Sword, she fell down
 uch backwards on her Bed in a Swoon. Never

ver was any Person in the World so un-
 man'd, as was the Prince at that Sight ; he
 had in a moment forgot what he was
 come about ; he thought no longer of
 searching after the Criminal, his Fury
 was blown over, and in its stead reign'd
 the greatest Calmness and Compassion
 imaginable. He let drop the Sword he
 had in his hand, and busied himself in
 recovering *Cornelia* from her Fit ; he run
 to her Closet, fetch'd from thence such
 Cordials as he met with, he poured some
 into her Mouth, and at last with much
 to do, he brought her to Life again. He
 ask'd her how she did, and whether he
 should assist her in raising her up ; she by
 this time having had some small time to
 think what she should say to the Prince,
 she held forth her hand, which the Prince
 took, and by it lifted her up ; When he
 found that she was past danger, and that
 her Colour began to return, he also re-
 assumed his severe Countenance, and in a
 grave Tone thus began to school her.
 ' I must confess, Madam, that I cannot
 ' but admire at my own Goodness and
 ' Indulgence, that could afford you Suc-
 ' cour, after you had so highly abused me.
 ' You shall know, Madam, that I am not
 ' so tame as you take me to be, and that
 ' I will despise a Woman, who has so
 ' much

much forgot her self; and I will make
 such an Example of your Stallion, as
 shall deter all Persons from daring to
 aspire in the least, where I pretend any
 thing. There the Prince making a
 pause, *Cornelia* had time to say, That he
 might be deceiv'd by outward Appea-
 rances, and that she made no question,
 but that she should justify her self, when
 she should find him divested of that Passi-
 on and Fury, which from his Brow did
 threaten her too severely. That will
 not do with me now, Madam, replied
 the Prince, I have heard too much
 how unworthily you reviled me to your
 Minion, to admit of any excuse, from a
 Person so unworthy my Favours. Yes,
 Sir, said *Cornelia*, I did speak all that
 in my Anger, and just Resentments could
 suggest to me, so soon as I heard some bo-
 dy at my Chamber-door, imagining that
 none could have the Confidence to come
 and disturb my rest, at such an Hour,
 when I was retired, but a Person trans-
 ported with Chymerial Jealousie, as
 you shew your self to be. In revenge I
 did speak things loud enough, that they
 might be heard by you, that I might
 give you some Disturbance, for your
 unkind censuring of my Actions, and
 the ill opinion you harbour of me; but
 to

' to whom did I speak those things, Sir?
 ' That you know, Madam, and you may
 ' save me the Trouble to tell it you.
 ' Where have you hid that Wretch?
 ' Sir, you have free Liberty to search all
 ' Corners in this House, and to take your
 ' just Revenge on any Delinquents you
 ' shall find here, but till then, I wish
 ' I might see your Highness take a
 ' more serene Air. I spoke those Words
 ' to none but my self, Sir, and it was my
 ' Passion that forc'd them from my in-
 ' censed Mind, as a Punishment for your
 ' distrustful humour. I am not to be any
 ' longer impos'd upon now, Madam, re-
 ' plied the Prince, and it was enough for
 ' you to deceive me once, with the shift-
 ' ing of your Night-dresses on your Dar-
 ' ling, and not to go about to abuse me
 ' once again to my Face: But I trifle
 ' here, I see, and I will find him out here-
 ' or secure him hereafter, that he shall
 ' never more dare to lift up his Eyes
 ' where I have any thoughts. *Cornelia* an-
 ' swered not a word, but seemed not to be
 ' well; and the Prince fearing that she
 ' was going once again to work on his too
 ' easy temper, went out of the Chamber:
 ' he met upon the Stairs *Villarius*, who was
 ' going to see what was become of him.
 ' The Prince told him, that though

the Gallant had escap'd him, he had heard enough to convince him of the baseness of the Woman. *Villarius* answered, that he had secured the Man, and sent him where he should be kept safe, till your Highness shall examine him. After that they retired, the Prince giving him a full account of his Proceeding with *Cornelia*.

About this time the *French* Embassadour in the Isles, who had been instrumental in the breaking of the forementioned League, did give frequent Visits to *Francelia*, and so did his Wife, which Visits *Francelia* return'd again. *Artabaces*, who was privy to the *French* Cabal, and who all along kept up that, and *Francelia*'s Interest together, in whose House the Prince had had divers private Meetings with *Francelia*, having been informed all along of her Progress on the Prince's Mind, and she having told him that all things were now ripe, and that she was going to put the last hand to the work. He made a very magnificent Entertainment at a new-built House of his, where were invited the Prince, *Francelia*, the *French* Embassadour and his Lady, with divers other Persons of Quality of the *French* Party. The Prince, whom *Villarius* had the next Morning brought to see

see the Delinquent Lover, had the Satisfaction to hear him own his Crime; which ingenious Confession oblig'd the Prince to inflict no other Punishment upon him, but a Banishment, with Threatnings, that if ever he attempted any thing of that nature again, he should find a more rigorous usage. After that the Prince prepar'd to go to the Entertainment, with a Resolution fully to disclose his Mind to *Francelia*, and to bring things to a Conclusion.

Things being so far brought to maturity betwixt the two Lovers, though not with the knowledg of one anothers Intentions, a true understanding, and a good success, cou'd not chuse but follow; wherefore the Prince applying himself closely, after Dinner, to the Courtship of his Mistress, and willing to clear that point on which she had so long insisted, he fell upon that Theme himself, and told her, That he was resolved to do any thing that she should require of him, provided that she would after all be favourable to him. She made answer, that she had long since declar'd to him, that she wanted not Respect and over Love, to gratify him in any thing that he could require of her; but that she could not bring her self to submit to that Character,

racter, which a closer Conjunction be-
 twixt them, would bring upon her, so
 long as there was no Marriage in the
 case. 'Nay, if that be all, Madam, re-
 ply'd the Prince, I'll marry you over and
 over, after what form and manner you
 shall like best : Come, come, we'll go
 about it immediately ; no better time
 than now, we shall have so many Wit-
 nesses : Come, who will lend us a for-
 mulary, and who shall be the Priest ?
 Here's a Match made, my Lord, con-
 tinued he, and a Wedding at hand ;
 who shall we have for Bride-men and
 Bride-maids ? Not so fast, Sir, reply'd
Francelia, you are making a Jest of what
 I am very serious in : Who I ? reply'd
 the Prince, not in the least, I assure you :
 I'll go about it presently, and give more
 private orders for getting all things in
 a readiness for your Satisfaction. With
 that, the Prince over-joy'd that he and
 his Mistress were come to an Agree-
 ment, though with different Intentions,
 the one endeavouring all things to be
 done with a great deal of Solemnity and
 Circumspection, while the other had
 no further thoughts in it, but to let her
 have her humour, in a frolick, so long
 as it work'd his ends with her. There
 was four or five persons pitch'd upon to

be present at the Agreement of the two Lovers, who retired in a private Room, where one in the habit of a Priest mumbled over the Matrimony, and so both Parties were agreed. The Prince expressing a World of Impatience to come to an Enjoyment after all this Condescension : those that were privy to the business, caus'd a Bridal Bed to be fitted, where in the presence of two Persons the Prince Bedded and enjoy'd his *French* Mistress; and he being of a humour, as not to care much to toil or take pains to obtain his Pleasures, as he had frequently declar'd, and that he lov'd to find some work ready done to his hands, and moreover having been that day very well plyed with Healths, to make him the less capable of discernment, he never troubled himself nor found fault afterwards, for not finding all things the first Night he enjoy'd his Mistress, according to that height of Vertue and Innocence that she always had professed.

Thus had *Francelia* the Satisfaction to be assur'd, that after such a Tryal she had put the Prince upon, he could not refuse her any thing that she should require of him; all her Policy therefore which she us'd afterwards, was to keep the Prince from falling into Relapse

with

with *Cornelia*, and to entertain and keep up his Affections towards her self, at the same pitch to which she had brought him, in which she made use of all her subtile Policy and Wit, with the super-addition of her other Charms, by which she easily obtain'd all that she would from him, to the advantage of the *French*, beyond all that the *French* Ambassadors, and the *French* Court-Pensioners could do ; inso-much, that when at sometimes the Ministers of other Princes, did represent with so much reason, and on such sure grounds, that it was against the Prince's and the Nation's Interest, to yield such and such things to the *French*, which would so convince the Prince, that he was ready to recal his Word from the *French* Ministers, which he had assur'd those other State-Ministers that he would do ; *Francelia* would work more with him in one Night, than they could do with all their Just Reasonings ; and would so turn the Scales again before Morning, that those Ministers well saw they should never be able to bring the Prince to any reasonable Terms, so long as he lay in the Arms of that *French Dalila*.

Francelia having thus brought her Designs to pass, as to the firm Establishing of her Interest in the Prince's Bosom, she

had no more to do but destroy *Cornelia's*, that she might rise on her debasement ; but because those Titles and Honours which had been conferr'd on *Cornelia*, were not to be taken off, she soon did work with the Prince to make her as Great in all respects ; she was not long without great Titles, and without some other Testimonies of the Prince's Favours. The Prince did not only fill her Coffers, but her Belly also, so that at last the Princess taking notice of it, she plainly told *Francelia* what her thoughts were of her. *Francelia* being conscious of her guilt, and that to go about to deny a thing which she would have to come to light, would but aggravate things with the Princess, and make them appear the worse ; in time she little by little drew her self from her presence, and acquainted the Prince with what the Princess had laid to her Charge. There presently followed Consultations betwixt the Prince, his Mistress, and all the *French* Ministers and Partisans, how the thing should be carried ; the Prince was for privacy, and *Francelia* forbidding open defiance to all ; but the Prince upon mature advice, carried it his way, and she was at last deliver'd of a Son in *Artabasu's* Lodgings, the whole business being carried

ried with all the privacy imaginable, there being a Man-Midwife in readiness to that purpose, who took care according to the Instructions he had receiv'd, to convey the Child away, who was for some considerable time kept in the Country, at a Farmers House, where it was Baptiz'd by an appointed Chaplain, and had for Godfathers and Godmothers such as the Country would afford. But *Francelia* being wearied at last in remaining obscure, did so work with the Prince, that notwithstanding *Cornelia's* last Efforts towards the Princess, to endeavour the suppressing of the growing Grandure of *Francelia*; she was not long after Intituled to great Dignities, and her Son also some time after.

Now did *Francelia* look upon her self as come to the height she had all-along aim'd at, and she did not a little glory also, though in private, and amongst those that were of the Cabal, of her being the Prince's Wife; and when it ever reach'd the Prince's Ears, though he would sometimes be a little displeas'd at it, yet when he considered that all that Pageantry was perform'd, but to obtain his Ends of his Mistress with the more ease and quicker dispatch, would laugh at it, and say, 'Twas fitting she should have

her Humour a little, as well as he had his.
 He caus'd a Magnificent Appartment to
 be made ready, and very richly furnish-
 ed for her at Court ; he own'd her pub-
 lickly for his Mistress, and the young
 Child for his Son : And by the Assidu-
 ous Visits, and the whole days and
 nights he spent with her, he gave all
 the World sufficiently to understand
 that she had made her self Mistress of his
 Mind ; and that she had got such an A-
 scendant over him, that all the Policy
 in the World was never able to remove.
 Now she had so well perform'd the first
 part of her Commission, that there was
 no fear left in the *French* Ministers, but
 that she would succeed in the rest, to the
 height of their Expectations. Where-
 fore now things were put forwards in
France, for her to bring to perfection
 here. The Great Senate was grown too
 troublesome, and was too prying into the
 French Affairs ; they amongst the rest,
 wou'd have the Prince to recal all his
 Subjects out of the French Service, both
 by Sea and Land ; and while they were
 busy about such necessary things, for the
 good of the Nation, there came a very
 great Embassy from *Tyrannides*, and in
 order that they should be receiv'd accord-
 ing to their Merits, and the Grandure of
 the

the King they came from. *Francelia* perswaded the Prince to Adjourn the Great Senate for their better Reception. This Embassy consisted of divers Persons ; the chiefest of which were a Duke, an Arch-Bishop, and *Brillano* ; and these were follow'd with about 400 Persons of all sorts and degrees. But the Grand Senat being grown so obstinate, as to oppose all the particulars about which they were come ; *Francelia* was set to work, and perform'd her business so effectually, that *Tyrannides* had full Leisure and Liberty to compleat his Conquests against his Enemies : She obtain'd that the Prince's Subjects should not be recall'd from the French Service ; she dissuaded the Prince from concluding a League Offensive and Defensive with *Batavia*. And to these purposes, because the Grand Senate had declar'd they would proceed on no Business whatsoever, till those, and other things of that nature were first done, she got the Prince to Adjourn them from time to time : Amongst which Adjournments and Prorogations, there was one, when the greatest urgency of Affairs, and the Dangers which highly threatned that Nation, requir'd most their Assembling, in order to bring to condign Punishment, all

such as had been Instrumental in carrying on a dangerous Plot against these Isles. Then was it that *Francelia* employ'd all her Policy, Charms and Wit, to bring the Prince to so extraordinary an Action, to the great prejudice of the Isles, and which it was impossible he should ever have been brought to, while he was himself: Wherefore means were found out, so much to alienate his Mind from his own Interest, that he should be brought to act absolutely contrary to his own Design. Amongst divers was propos'd, but few thought proper, *Francelia* would receive none but she her self had design'd; she only wanted two more of her Sex to assist her in it, which having got, and full Instructions how to manage the Prince to the advantage of the Plot, she fell to work. The Prince had divers times mention'd, that he had a great desire to be thoroughly merry with her, to dissipate some Shagrins which the late disturbances had rais'd in his Mind. ' You shall not want that any longer, Sir, ' *Francelia* told him, and if you please ' but to name the day, I'll undertake for ' the rest, and shall endeavour all I can ' possible to give you some agreeable Diversion. The Prince, who did not care how soon he were freed from some time of

of those Agitations which the searching too deep into the Plot wrought in his Mind, told her, 'The sooner the better, and that he did not care if it was 'that very Evening; nay, I design to 'make a Night on't, *continued he*, and 'to cast off all Cares, Trouble and 'Thoughts, except of Mirth, during 'that time. *Francelia* presently agreed to it, and prepar'd a magnificent Banquet, with divers sorts of Musick, and variety of pleasant Liquors. Those Persons also which compos'd the Company, had screw'd their Mirth and Wits to the highest pitch, that nothing should be wanting that could produce Delights, and banish thence all Cares and Thoughts; in a word, that Night was to be wholly dedicated to *Bacchus* and to *Venus*: And in effect, it prov'd a Debauch of the highest nature, the whole night being spent with Drinking and Toying; so that the Prince was never more enrowl'd under *Bacchus's* Banner than he was that night; and in the morning, when the Company began to be so tir'd as to part, *Francelia* to fill up the measure, and come to the Point and Conclusion, towards which, all the Extravagancies which were committed that night were so many steps, she with the two other great

Ladies and the Prince retir'd into another more private Place, where to make a full Conquest of him, before he should cool so much as to admit of any second Thought or Reflections, *Francelia* propos'd to the two other Ladies who were complaining of Heat, to strip; and to induce them to it, she began her self to open her Bosom, to take in a little Air. That Allurement made the Prince to desire a further view of those Charms which rais'd his Desires, and because that *Francelia* insisted upon having the two other Ladies do the same; the Prince not only us'd many Intreaties to obtain that Favour from them, but assisted them also to undress; so that at last, following *Francelia's* Example, they pull'd off so long that they left nothing on, to cover them, but what Nature had furnish'd them withal. Thus did those three naked Ladies stand before the Prince, not unlike the three Goddesses, *Juno, Pallas and Venus*, before *Paris*. The Prince ravish'd with such a Spectacle, did examine every part with his Eyes, with all the Curiosity imaginable; and because the Ladies would dress again, he bethought himself of proposing some Diversion in their undress; amongst divers that were mention'd, the sport of Questions

Questions and Commands was pitch'd upon. They employ'd some time at it, and frequently when it came to the Ladies turns to Command, they would impose upon the Prince, the drinking a Glass of Wine to each of their Healths, to bear up his Spirits: And the good Prince thought he could do no less, in requital of those Favours he obtain'd from them, and to keep up the Frolick also, on his side. At last *Francelia* finding that all things were as she would have them, to give the word that should cause a general Amazement through the whole Nation, it being her turn to Rule; She ask'd the Prince whether he would have two Commands and one Question, or two Questions and one Command? the Prince desired one Command and two Questions. She ask'd him first, Whether he wou'd not be glad to be so Absolute, as hence-forth to Govern without the Grand Senate, and have no further occasion for them? Next she ask'd, Who he thought the happiest Monarch in the World? The Prince having answer'd to those two Questions as he thought fit, she Commanded him to Dissolve the Grand Senat. Her Command was readily obey'd, and the very next Morning put in Execution; in part by a Prorogation,

gation, which was the first step to its Dissolution, notwithstanding all that the sober Party could alledge to the contrary, and to the wonder of all the World.

Thus what all the Arts of the most refin'd Politicks and Rhetorick could never have been able to bring about in a long Succession of Time, was done with ease and Diligence by a Woman's Tongue and Tail; for which she had the Applause of all that Party, but above all, of her Lord and Sovereign *Tyrannides*. - This Master-piece made her fit, in the Opinion of all the Caballists, to be, not only admitted into the most secret Consultations after that, but also to have her Voice in all the Affairs that were negotiated at home and abroad. That was the reason, that after the Murther of Sir *Edmundus*, to which she was made privy, as to all other Designs; she had the Curiosity, with another Lady of great Quality, to go to see his Body, as it lay in a Palace, on which having smil'd, she said, That many should follow him, rather than that Work so well begun for the good of the French, should fall short of their Hopes and Expectations. Yet, how great soever her Expectations were that way, they were
not

not without some mixture of Fears and Apprehensions; she was frequently heard to say, *That it was good to make Hay while the Sun shin'd, and to provide a Cloak against a Storm.* She, like an expert Politician, would provide against an adverse Fortune in the highest of Prosperity, as being indeed the most fit and proper time so to do; that made her to drain the Prince's Purse, as well as his Body, getting from him, when any Money was stirring, vast Sums to lay up as well as to defray her exorbitant Expences at Gaming. That made *Helliana* one day to say, pleasantly to the Prince, who seem'd unwilling to bestow 20 pieces of Gold for a *Pollony* Dog which she fancy'd much, That the Prince had given more thousands of pounds for a French Bitch than he would give of pieces of Gold for a much prettier Creature. *Francelia* was a very great lover of Cards, would play suitable to her Quality, and sit up whole nights at it, insomuch, that what with fretting at the loss of a very considerable Sum, and with sitting up for several nights, in hopes to regain some back; (but her Countrey-Men being too cunning for her that way, made her lose more and more) she so heated her Body, that she had upon it a dangerous fit of
Sickness,

Sickness, which gave the good Prince a great deal of trouble, and cost him many Tears and Gold to repair her loss.

It was well known, how frequently she had private Conferences with *Brillano*, and a Secretary of State, concerning that scurvy Discovery of the Plot, and how she influenc'd the Prince to slight all the Evidences that appear'd to prove the same; and now it was thought fit to proffer to her Service an *Hibernian* Woman, who had been formerly employ'd about the meanest Offices at Court, and by her bold Confidence had rais'd her self to some higher Employ. She had been Examin'd and Try'd, and had been found a fit Instrument for *Francelia's* purposes, so she became from a Vile Inconsiderable Wretch a very great Stateswoman, and a great part of the Secrets were imparted to her, and she so well acted her part, that *Francelia* recommended her to the Prince's Favour. It was by her means afterwards that all sorts of Pamphlets and Verses were deliver'd to *Francelia*, who would shew them unto the Prince, who employ'd Persons after that to find out the Authors of them.

Of several Amorous Intrigues which *Francelia* had at divers times, the Prince did

did never suspect her but twice, and the first time too was but for a very small time, and very superficially. One *Urbirupa*, for Diversion, did cast his Eyes on *Francelia*, and his Amorous Looks were repay'd with such Glances from her, as made him see, that his Person would be as acceptable, as had always been his Wit and Conversation; his own Inclinations spurr'd him on, and he found he had not many steps to make that way, because of her Advances towards him; they presently understood one another, and it was not long e're he receiv'd from her such Assurances of her Good-will, that he waited but for time and opportunity to improve his Fortune. Neither was she on her part backward in the least, to let him know how much she coveted some greater Indearment with him; and she so prest him, that knowing himself to be in no condition to give her all the satisfaction that she required, without doing her some prejudice, he still went back, as she prest forward, which made her but the more eagerly to pursue the Game, in the Opinion that my Lord *Urbirupa* had some new Amour in hand, into which, according as she might be inclin'd, he would discover his Intrigues with her. One day that *Urbirupa* was come to
pay

pay those Respects to her, which of late he had frequently done; she told him, that of all things in the World she wonder'd most, that Men should make it their business to insinuate into Womens Affections, on the bare account of so doing, and without drawing any further advantage, than to boast of it after. He being surpriz'd at this free Declaration, could no longer forbear, notwithstanding the condition he was in, which had made him to defer from time to time, giving her that Satisfaction which she expected, and that he was as eager to bestow upon her, but for the above-mentioned Circumstance he found himself in; that setting aside all those Considerations, which had detain'd him so long from the Enjoyment of that which he so earnestly desired, and of the prejudice that the Prince might receive from it at the third hand; he only told her, that she might be mistaken in him, and that what she took for meer Gallantry and Custom, was an effect of her singular Perfections, and of his Sense and Judgment, only mixt perhaps with too much of profound Respect for the Mistress of his Prince; but that now he had laid aside all other considerations, to give himself wholly up to Love, and to her

Ser-

Service ; in short they made use of the present opportunity, being alone, and without likelihood of being disturb'd, and for the present they both were very well satisfied with one another, and continued in a secret Correspondency during some time.

At length *Francelia* found her self ill, and perceiving that she was worse and worse, and that *Urbirupa* grew remiss in his Visits to her, she sent to him to desire him to see her : He mistrusting what it was about, deferred answering her expectations, still putting off his appearing with some pretence or other, till at last they having press'd him beyond excuse, he could no longer put off waiting on her, he went immediately to *Francelia's* Apartment, and found her all in Tears, who being left alone with him, told him, That he was certainly the most perfidious Man alive, and that he had intirely ruin'd her ; with that she declar'd in what a Condition she was, that she was the most miserable Wretch in the whole World, and that she did not know how to behave her self to the Prince. *Urbirupa* seeing her in such a Passion, after a little pause, told her, That he was sorry any such thing had happen'd, that it was unknown to him, he was himself in such a
Con-

Condition ; and upon redoubling of her Lamentations, he bid her to be of good Comfort, and not afflict her self so much, assuring that he would take care all things should be well, and the Prince have not so much as the least suspicion of it, only he bid her to stave off the Prince but two or three days longer from her Embraces, and by that time all things should be so ordered, that no prejudice should possibly come to her. In fine, *Urbirupa*, who abounded in Wit and good Language, did so well make use of them both to *Francelia*, that in short, she wholly relied on his address and good management, and so let him go about that work.

Urbirupa being then highly in favour with the Prince, and one of those with whom he did use to divert himself privately ; he went immediately and found out the Prince, and presently put him on a Discourse of Women. *They are, Sir*, said he, *but as we make them, and we have the happiness not to ingage with any but such, whose Modesty, strait-lac'd Virtue, or Grandure, are no Impediments to our Pleasures : we are for Freedom, for all sorts of Liberties, in which we feast all our Senses at once. That, I must confess, is very agreeable,* repli'd the Prince, *and I am much of your mind, that Greatness does but obstruct our Pleasures. Ah!*

Sir,

Sir, said Urbirupa, did you but know, did you but see our ways, you would certainly be very well pleas'd with them, and you would not be long without making some Tryal that way. I have a mind to have a frolick that way, to see the humour of it, reply'd the Prince; when do you think we might do any thing of that Nature? When you please, Sir, reply'd the other, I know a place where there are three or four of the Prettiest, Wittiest, Ingenious, merry Creatures in the World; they are incomparable Company, Sir, continued he, and such as would infinitely please your Humour. Name but your time, Sir, added he, and I shall give order that the Coast may be clear for your admittance, and those only you shall appoint to wait on you there. Faith, reply'd the Prince, I care not and if it be this Night, get you two or three more of our Company to meet there, and I'll be ready to go along with you. Urbirupa having assur'd him he would not fail to do all things according to his desire; he went his ways to give the necessary Orders, and return'd again to the Prince, to let him know all things were in a readiness to entertain him, and that the rest of the Company was there already, though none of them knew the Prince should be there.

The Prince having disguis'd himself a little,

little, went with *Urbirupa* to the Rendezvous, not a little tickl'd in his Fancy, with the surprizal the Company would be in at his coming, as also at the singular pastime that he expected to find there. It is certain that the whole Company did all they could to divert the Prince, but above all *Urbirupa* with his gay Humour and Ingenious Wit, insomuch that the Prince heartily thank'd him, and protested he never was so merry in his life, and he did taste of all the Variety that was offer'd, with a great deal of Satisfaction, and without the least Scruple. At last the Company broke up, because the Prince grew Sleepy, and the Prince went home well satisfied with that night's Adventure.

Urbirupa having thus far play'd his part, with all the Success he could wish, and without the least distrust to the Prince, the next day he went to acquaint *Francelia* with it, and gave her some directions to govern her self towards the Prince the next time he should come near her; and that in case he should not come of himself the next day, she should not fail, to invite him the day after to some Entertainment, that his too long absence might not break their measures. *Francelia* had no need to use any

Invi-

Invitation, for the Prince came to her the next day in the Evening, with whom he stay'd the best part of the night, in-
 somuch that now they had a very easy Game to play of it. Some five or six days after *Francelia*, according to her Kew, so soon as she saw the Prince, did make a sad and lamentable Complaint to him of the Condition she was in, condoling her misfortune, and the miserableness of her Condition. The Prince who expected not such a Reception, and that was wholly ignorant of the business, was not a little startled at it. He ask'd her what was the matter with her? *What mean you, Madam*, continued he, *and who do you take me for? I mean, Sir*, said she in a great Passion, *that you have ruin'd me, you have undone me, I am lost, I am undone for ever.* The Prince more and more amaz'd at her Transports, looking on her with some concern: *Explain your self, Madam*, continu'd he, *and put me out of suspense.* *What need I tell you, Sir, that which you know so well, and feel already.* Still a Riddle to me, and I shall continue in a Cloud, except you will express your self so as that I may understand you. At last with much to do, and not without violent Reproaches, she let the Prince understand that he had made her very ill: The Prince startled

at the first news of it, went about to excuse himself, and to plead his Innocence, but that serv'd but to exasperate her the more, insomuch that she fell into such Passions, or at least did so excellently well counterfeit them, that it put the good Prince on serious Reflections. He began to think of his last frolicking night, and of what he had then done, and concluded in himself, against himself, taking all the blame to himself, and freely confessing his Guilt to the enraged Mistress, most humbly and heartily begging her Pardon, with a thousand Protestations that he knew nothing of it, or he had not been so base as to have come near her, and that at that very instant he was as free from any such distemper, as ever he was in all his Life. He further assur'd her, that he had no ill Opinion of her in the least; that he took all upon himself, and that he would highly make her amends for the wrong he had done her: With that he set himself to caress her, which brought her a little out of her dumps; and some few days after, the Prince finding himself ill, he went again to her, to confess and acknowledg his Fault, and to perfect the Reconciliation; assigning her, besides a very considerable Sum of Mony with which

which he bought his Peace; which serv'd to go to the *Bath* suitable to her Rank and Grandure, where she resolv'd to stay, and did stay till the Prince begg'd of her to return to him, which she did at her leisure, and when she thought fit. She remain'd for some time after her return under the Physicians Hands; and though the Prince was perfectly then recover'd of his Illness, she would not let him Embrace her of a long time after, but still persisted in the Opinion, at least seemingly, that the Prince could not be well so long as she remain'd Ill, seeing that he had been the first attack'd by that Distemper under which she still lay languishing. This oblig'd the Prince to inquire a little more narrowly into the matter, and at last he was inform'd by one of his own Physicians, who he had sent to take care of her in Conjunction with others, that her Distemper proceeded from another Cause, than he imagin'd, and that it render'd her incapable of Carelling him as she us'd to do, but that in a short time she would recover, though peradventure with a disability of bearing any more Children. The Prince desir'd the Doctor to continue his Cares towards her; and so was forc'd to rest

satisfy'd

satisfy'd for sometime longer : In short, the Prince was never at ease till she was recover'd ; nor then neither, to speak the truth ; for never was there any Money stirring, either in the Privy-Purse, in the Exchequer, or from beyond-Seas, but she would have her share of it, no matter how the Prince resented it, or how he was censur'd by the Nation : It was to advance the French Interest that she had acted all along ; and why should she not share in the Gold that came from thence as well as such which she knew very well had not perform'd so much, nor merited more than she had done ; and to make all things sure, no sooner had she got a considerable Sum together, but it was sent into *France* in good Gold, till it was pretty well drain'd ; and afterwards in Silver, under pretence of Pewter and other things made up in Casks : It was with those immense Sums that she has built a most Magnificent Palace, and that she at present keeps as great a Rank at the French Court, as any one that is of the Blood-Royal, though she has lost prodigiously at play since her return to *France*.

Thus was the good Prince play'd upon by his ungrateful French Mistress, who not contented to play false with him, had

had the Impudence afterwards to task him with Crimes, that she her self was guilty of; making him pay for her Lasciviousness, and make an Atonement for her Faults.

The other time that the Prince accus'd *Francelia* of Falshood, he had better success than in this former Intrigue, through the Assistance of one of her Servants, who was not at first come into the Prince's Interests, as she did afterwards upon some distaste, which is not worth the mentioning.

Tyrannides had sent to the Court of the Isles, a certain Clergy-man, with the Character of Publick Minister, to negotiate something of great moment there with *Francelia*, and the French Pensioners at Court; and being a Person of a Noble Family, of an high Character, rarely Educated, of a very fine Presence, and a very good Meen, and a great stock of Wit and Complaisance, with a full Purse; all these excellent Qualifications did render him acceptable in all ingenious Companies, and most highly coveted by the softer Sex, to which he was naturally very much inclin'd, and very well endow'd in all respects to do them Service: But above all, under pretence of private Conferences,

ces, he had access almost at all times at *Francelia's* Lodgings, where he would sometimes pass whole Nights at play, and though he would lose sometimes very considerably, yet he would never be wanting to gratify the Servants, which acquired him a more free Access in most places where he resorted: After some time, when that he had dispatch'd the best part of the Business he came for, he did not for that decrease the number of his Visits, but only altered the Property of them, both as to Privacy and Business, which made him also to alter his Discourses; for whereas formerly they were of Affairs and politick Designs, which he would conclude with some slight amorous Complement; now his whole Theme was Love, and only sometimes to blind those that would intrude, he would superficially touch on some State Affair. His Person was not to be disliked, as I have said already, and with that he was very agreeable Company; besides, the Prince began to grow ancient, and not so full of Courtship consequently, as formerly: All these things together, made *Francelia* to open her Eyes, her Ears, and at last, her very Heart to this *Sancti Pater's* Charms, while he was admiring and praising hers, so that there was Charms for Charms, and both parties were very

very well satisfied in Conversation one with another. This Trade continued a pretty while before notice was taken, and all that could be made of it, when look'd into a little more narrowly, was, that they diverted themselves at Cards, and in discouraging of Passages at the French Court. Mean time, Love, who never is at a stay, increasing in these two Lovers Bosoms, they began to find that their Attendance was more troublesome to them than it used to be; and that they might very well dispence with them, and not be the least incommoded. What the *Sancti Pater* said, was seconded by *Francelia*, who from thence took new Measures; and whereas formerly the Presence-Chamber was rarely without some Servants in it, and the Anti-Chamber continually full of Waiters, very frequently she would send forth those that waited in her Chamber, on trifling Business, that she might have the greater Freedom for Action. Amongst those that were so served was one of her Women, who took it so at Heart, that she resolved within her self to play them a Trick for it so soon as she had an opportunity, however she gave no Signs in the least of Discontent; on the contrary seem'd as well pleas'd as ever, having

found means privately so to post her self, as to see and hear all that past betwixt the two passionate Lovers.

Our two Politicians, as well in Love, as in State-Affairs, did gradually ascend to the highest step of their Imaginary Felicity, that they might daily relish new Joys, and taste fresh Pleasures; and though at first they run, not headlong, to a full fruition, they toy'd sufficiently, and spoke a Thousand passionate things; if one call'd the other his Joy, he was call'd again, her Life: Thus all the most endearing Expressions that Love could inspire them with, were utter'd round; and with ten thousand Daliances repeated. All these things did the Woman-Spie behold, but not as sufficient yet to give her that full satisfaction of that sweet Revenge which she long'd for; wherefore, with a World of impatience she waited for that she expected would follow of course.

The Prince, of late, had divers times, when he came to visit his unconstant Mistress, found the Door shut, and she either retir'd into her Closet, or lay'd down to rest, as not being well. These Excuses and Pretences had at first pass'd current with him, but at last, he began to grow weary of them, and it rais'd
some

some Suspicions in him. These distrusts were sometimes after blown up into a flame of Jealousie by an unexpected accident. The Prince having one day gone to *Francelia's* Lodgings, as he us'd to do, was told, That she had had an ill night, that she was newly laid down to endeavour to Sleep a little, and had given order, That no body should disturb her: The Prince willing she should be obey'd, pass'd from her Chamber Door into that Room where the Spie was on the Watch, more by meer chance, than with any design; and perceiving her sitting very attentive, he came up to her, in order to further inform himself concerning her Mistresses Health; but first ask'd, What she did there so pensive alone? The cunning Gipsie, glad of the opportunity that presented it self, to begin the opening of the Mystery of Iniquity; answer'd, That that place answering to *Francelia's* Beads-head, she was hearkening there, to know when she might go in to her, without giving her the trouble to ring the Bell, which might cause her some disturbance: but she deliver'd this with such a Stile, and with such an Accent, as would sufficiently give to understand to any mean Capacity, that she spoke Ironically. That gave the Prince the Curiosity

Curiosity of leaning his Head against the Wainscote to hearken; and he had his Desire; he did hear, not only one Voice, not only *Francelia's*, but another in Confort with hers; but though he could make a shift to distinguish two different Voices, yet they whispered so low, that it was impossible for him to understand what they said. This, however, did highly disturb him, insomuch that he could not forbear, as in a Surprise, to ask, what was the meaning of this? and prest the Woman very earnestly to unriddle the Business to him. But he was answered, That she used to follow her Ladies Orders implicitly, and never presumed to dive further into her Secrets than she her self was pleased to lay open. This Answer did but disquiet the Prince the more, and he earnestly press'd her to inform him in this Mystery. She did excuse her self, and pleaded Ignorance, but in such a manner as but confirmed the Prince the more in his Distrust. Our subtile Spie having at last screw'd up the Prince's Jealousie to that hight she desired, she began to relent, and to seem to be desirous to comply with his Desires, and in Conclusion, upon Promises that the Prince would stand her Friend, and would amply gratify her, she told him,

him, that of truth *Francelia* had but feign'd an Indisposition, to have the greater liberty to entertain a Friend of hers in private, without disturbanc. This did but increase the Prince's Desires of knowing more, which made him to repeat his Assurances of Kindnesses and Reward to her. At last, she told him, That there was no such great Mystery in the Business; neither, that it was but what he had allow'd of before; and that the same person was with her now, whom he had formerly found in private Conference with *Francelia* more than once, when he had retir'd, and left them together. *I understand you now*, said the Prince, *it is her Countryman Sancti Pater; but now the case is alter'd*, continu'd he; *it is true, that I did allow of private Conferences between them, so long as he had Business of State to negotiate with her, but those things have been made an end of long since; and I know not what now he can have to communicate so privately to her, that I must not have admittance. Though I have sign'd all the Acts of their former Conferences, I shall not give my Consent to this Privy-one. Does he frequently do this?* Yes, Sir, reply'd the Woman, *but I humbly beg your Pardon for having not inform'd you sooner of it, not knowing, but that it was*

as formerly by your Consent. My consent,
 reply'd the Prince, *it's so from it, that I*
will break their Measures, and spoyl their
Intrigue; but I will first be sure, before
I make any noise about it; in which, I de-
sire your Assistance. The Woman return'd
 him an Assurance, that she would for
 his Service, do all that lay in her power.
Can you not so contrive, said the Prince,
as that I may come upon them unawares,
and surprise them when they are retir'd
together? I shall do my endeavour, Sir,
 answer'd she, *to give you that satisfaction,*
and I shall not fail, in order to it, to give
you timely notice, the next time they are
together, then your Highness may proceed
in the Business as you shall think fit. The
 Prince intreated her to do so, and to
 take no further notice of it for the pre-
 sent, no more than he would, that he
 might the more surely surprise them;
 which she having promis'd to do, the
 Prince went his way, with more distur-
 bances in his Head, than he had brought
 along with him, though he had had some
 Jealousies before.

The Woman mean time continued
 her diligent Watch, as well as the two
 Lovers did their secret Conversations,
 that she might find out an opportunity
 of gratifying the Prince according to his
 desires.

desires. She had no occasion to wait long for it, the very next day offer'd her what she desired. *Francelia* having feigned to be indispos'd, *Sancti Pater* came to give her some Consolation, as he us'd to do ; so soon as he was come, *Francelia* gave more exprefs Orders than ever, that no Body should disturb her not till Morning, because that she had some extraordinary business that required great haste to be dispatch'd by Morning ; this she told to that very Woman that spy'd her Actions, having call'd for her into her Chamber, where, for a shew of business, divers Papers were laid open on the Table, and a Pen and Ink got ready : but on the contrary, all that did but confirm the Woman, that there was something to be done that Night, on the Interest of Love more than on that of State ; wherefore presently after she went her self to give the Prince notice, that the Party was come, and that he was to lose no time. This was about Nine at Night, the Prince came with all the Privacy he could, and had the Curiosity to go to the place to listen, whether he could over-hear any of their Discourse. All this while the Woman had conceal'd from his knowledge the Peep-hole she had, whereby she could see what was done in

the best part of the Chamber, but now she brought the Prince to it, and there he saw Wonders, and heard the *Sancti Pater* say : *Now is the happy moment, in which I shall drink with long draughts, of those Sweets that flows from those delicious Streams, of which I have hitherto had but tempting sippings, which have but the more increast my unquenched Spirit.* You see what I have done for you, reply'd *Francelia* ; you have all sacrific'd now to your Love, and the Prince himself lies neglected, to bestow on you, my Dear, with a more profuse hand, all that I am able to give you. I dare not think too much upon it, *Madam*, replied he, lest I should die for Joy before my time ; that is, before I am wrapt in *Extasie* in your *Charming Embraces*. Why lose we time, *Madam*, added he, a time so precious, whose every moment deprives me from so many Pleasures with which I should be ravish'd. These Expressions being accompanied with little Amorous Actions, that spoke yet more, and what was to follow, you may imagine with what impatience the Prince was seiz'd. I have heard, I have seen enough, said he to the Woman, to distract a Person far more Patient than I am, though I have had but too much with this ungrateful Woman that has so basely abused me. I will immediately rush in upon them. He upon that left the Woman,

man, and went towards the Chamber-Door, where with over-earnestness in the dark fumbling for the Lock, he made so much noise, as gave them notice some Body was near; that made *Francelia* to endeavour getting off of the Bed, where she was with *Sancti Pater*, but one of her Feet being intangled in her Coats, she was found by the Prince in that posture, and the *Sancti Pater* lying still on the other side of the Bed, who so soon as he had perceived the Prince, got off, and while he was venting his Passion against *Francelia*, sneaked away.

I need not tell you what the Prince's Passion suggested him to say; it suffices that I tell you he wanted words to express his Resentments; wherefore I may very well fail in the same Nature; but at his going away he told her, that he would soon rid himself of those Troubles, and her of her Ruffian; and with that stepping to the Table he took along with him all the Papers that were on it, and tore them all along as he went out of the Chamber; he retir'd afterwards to his Lodgings, where how he spent that night any abused Lover may imagine.

Francelia mean time left alone in such a Confusion, as can scarce be imagined,

was a long time e're she could recover her self, and when she did, 'twas with so much remaining disorder, that she could not find any way of making any excuse for a thing, which had been but too visible to the Prince. She found that there was requir'd a greater Calm, than she could yet be Mistress of in her Mind, to digest well this business, and to frame the least appearance of excuse or pretence ; she therefore abandon'd her self to Tears, and in the excess of her Grief, she at last fell into a Slumber, which contributed much to recollect her Mind, and to bring her again into some kind of frame ; but the more she thought on some excuse, the more she found it difficult to make one ; and all she could build upon, was in laying all the fault on the *Sancti Pater's* Insolencies, and making him guilty of attempting to have gain'd by force, what she would not freely yield to him : Because she had no other shift, she was glad to make use of that, till she had an opportunity to speak to the Prince, so as that he might with patience hear out her whole Story : She sufficiently School'd her Woman, and tax'd her with perfidiousness ; she on the other Hand, who wholly rely'd on the Prince's Promises and Favours, unwilling to have

a continual noise about her Ears, fairly pack'd up her Tools and march'd off. *Francelia* on the other hand failed not to send a private Message to her disappointed Lover, to let him know what she design'd to do, and say to the Prince, that he might provide against that Storm, which was unavoidably to fall upon him ; she also acquainted him with what the Prince had said and done in his Absence, after he was got away ; and how he had torn in pieces part of those Papers that were left upon the Table, and had carried the rest of them away with him.

The Prince mean time on his part was not wanting, he had sent a Message to *Sancti Pater*, to command him to leave his Dominions, and to immediately go for *France*. That had somewhat surpriz'd him, and though he could not but know he deserv'd a far more severe Treatment, and much more of Rigour shew'd him ; yet such was his Love and Attachment to that Woman, that he could not conclude on obeying the Prince's Orders : Yet he was so cunning, as to feign, as if he would forthwith submit to them, but that was to get time only, and to have Conference about the business with *Francelia*, how to manage things
under

under pretence of taking his Leave of her, in the presence of other Persons; but underhand he consulted divers Persons, what should be done in such a Case, whether he was to obey the Prince, or not, so long as he was invested with the Character of a publick Minister of State. Some were for his immediate returning to *France*; others more affected to the *French* Interest, would have him to stay, to dispute the business with the Prince, and to beard him in his own Palace, to the Honour of him, whose Pentioners they were, and to the discredit of that good Prince, whose Subjects they were on the outside only. Upon this *Sancti Pater* did adventure to tarry here for some time, notwithstanding the Prince's express Orders to the contrary; and here he remained in opposition to the Prince's Will and Pleasure, for a considerable time, till he was told, that it was not safe for him to tarry here; that he was best to make haste to be gone, lest worse should befall him. That Advice did make him look about him, and conclude upon leaving the Land and his dear Mistress behind him, which in a little time after he did.

During his stay here, after the Prince had made that Discovery, and for some
time

time after, *Francelia* endeavour'd to persuade the Prince of her Innocence, and that *Sancti Pater* was only guilty: But he had heard and seen too much, to let that pass; and he had observ'd, on the contrary, that she had express'd much more of forwardness than he; wherefore the Prince was a long while before he would be reconciled to his Faithless Mistress; yet, at last, his good Nature prevail'd over his Resentments, and upon her humble submission, and acknowledging of her Error, he again received her into Favour. Some say, that amongst those Papers which the Prince found upon the Table, he had the good Fortune to tare in pieces the most Satyrical Piece against himself that any *French* Pen could write, whetted on with all the Malice and Scorn imaginable: Those other Papers which he took away with him being indifferent things, he flung them into the Fire. *Francelia's* peace once again made with the Prince, she soon got again the same ascendant over his Mind, as she had been Mistress of before, and if it was possible she Captivated him more than ever; inso-much, that at last, his whole delight was to walk a little, and then to spend the rest of his time with her in her Apartment. It was there, that a little before he
 fell

fell ill of his last fit of Sickneſs, coming into her Chamber, and finding fault with ſome odd kind of ſmell, which did offend him, ſhe treated him with ſome excellent Cordial, which ſhe ſaid, ſhe had newly received from *Spain* or *Italy*, but the Prince did very much diſlike the taſte of it, and divers times found fault with it that night; however, he retired Indiſpos'd, and never held up his Head after that; divers Perſons ſpent their Judgments upon it, as their Paſſions, or Interests did lead them; but the poor Prince fell into Fits of Convulſions and Apoplexy, in which Fits having had ſome Intervals, he recommended *Francelia* and *Helanda* to his Brothers Care; thus expreſſing his Love towards her to the laſt day of his Life.

So ſoon as the Prince was taken ill, ſhe made ſtrict Inquiries of his Phyſicians, Whether there was any danger? and when ſhe was advertiſ'd, that he was threatned with Death, ſhe began to prepare for a Retreat: ſhe preſently put up all her Jewels, and all the Gold ſhe had, made away the beſt part of her Goods; and all that ſhe could not conveniently ſend away into *France*, ſhe put into truſty Hands here; after which, ſhe ſtay'd here ſo long as ſhe could conveniently,

ently, to endeavour to get some Arrears due to her, being very unwilling to leave any thing behind her, but what she could not take along with her. It is reported, That since her return to *France*, she has had Addresses made by divers persons; but amongst the rest, she fancy'd one of good Meen, who pretended to be most passionately in Love; but in the conclusion, it prov'd to be more with her Gold, than with her Person; for understanding how forward she was at playing at Cards, he made himself of the same Humour, and brought with him, one after another, three or four more notable Gamsters, who play'd as genteely, lost their Monies as unconcern'd at first, and were as free and liberal to the Servants, as any persons in the World could be; insomuch, that *Francelia* was very well satisfy'd with their agreeable Conversation, and she particularly expres'd to her pretended Lover, the Resentments she had for his Care, in providing for her such excellent Company; but in the Conclusion, by her continuance at Play, they, together with her Gallant, made a shift to win about some twenty thousand Pounds from her; after which, the Gallants withdrew themselves little by little from her House, and at last, the Gallant also did
on

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on the sudden disappear, and was never heard of since. Some say, that they were a knot of Officers, that wanted so much Money to make their Equipage for this Campaign in *Alsatia*; where they now Swagger, and spend as high as the best, at the Cost and Charge of *Frangelia*.

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